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Panel at nurses' meet discusses topics important to today's woman

A panel on the Status of Women highlighted the annual meeting of the West Kootenay Registered Nurses Association of B.C. at the Lord Nelson Hotel.

A smorgasbord attended by 85 preceded the meeting. Tables were bright with jonquils, pussywillows and candles and each guest was presented with a jonquil corsage. The head table had an arrangement of tulips, jonquils and pussywillows as well as candles, creating a springtime atmosphere.

At the business meeting Pat Gibson, chairman, advised members of coming workshops on alcoholism and pediatric nursing. She noted that phase 1 respiratory disease workshop is to be held May 5 and 6 in Creston and said that registration forms would be coming from University of B.C. or members could contact the continuing education committee representative in the area.

A workshop on human sexuality is to be held in September, she said. This is to be an inter-disciplinary workshop with registration starting in June.

It was also noted that tapes, photos and interviews on medicine and nursing in the West Kootenay district are on file in the nursing archives at the Selkirk College Library.

Members were advised that refresher courses for registered nurses are to begin at the BCIT and will be funded by Manpower.

Jean Tronningsdal, nurse representative on the Central Kootenay Regional Hospital District, described her position and the prerequisites she felt should be kept in mind for anyone assuming this position. She said such a person must be



Pictured here are the panelists at the annual meeting of the West Kootenay Registered Nurses' Association of B.C. From

left, Vita Storey, Netta Gansner and Maureen Argatoff, all of Nelson and Jean Tronningsdal of Creston.

—Staff photo

able to think regionally and be prepared to assume a lot of homework. The Central Kootenay is one of very few districts in B.C. to have an RN representative, she said.

On the panel for the evening were Maureen Argatoff, Netta Gansner, Vita Storey and Jean Tronningsdal.

Maureen Argatoff spoke on the Image of Poverty and said that even though planning to marry, women should also prepare for independence in case of death, divorce or separation. With the latter circumstances in mind, a woman should consider how she would raise a family. She said that poverty can be looked at in respect to education, including occupations available to women, in trades and professions. She said women should consider how changes can be made politically, re-examining their present life style in terms of a sudden financial reverse.

Netta Gansner called attention to the report on The Status of Women in Canada, noting it contains briefs from occupations for women and recommendations in bringing about equality for women. She said

the report is available in the public library. She said that, as a member of the University Women's Club, the role of women in family and public life in the ways in which women participate into community policy-making positions, on councils and school boards, is of great interest.

COUNSELLING WOMEN

Vita Storey from the Nelson Women's Centre said counselling of women is starting at the junior-secondary level concerning education for women. This includes changing preconceived ideas on the changing role of women in society. There is also counselling for women regarding birth control and abortions, with referral to doctors when necessary.

She said the women's centre

definitely does not practise medicine, but acts as a go-between. It tries to destroy many myths which have arisen in regard to women and sexuality. The centre is starting consciousness awareness groups to help women determine their own identity and avocation and to acquire self-confidence. The centre is also working with the Status of Women Council.

Jean Tronningsdal, an RN from East Kootenay District told of the changes of status of women as shown through publications and periodicals over the past three or four years.