

Curious Questions

- *Who...is being led?*
- *Where ...are they being led to?*
- *To what particular purpose?*

A Political History



Mental Health Nursing

“... this change in terminology would appear to reflect a desire by nurses to establish their profession as distinct from the discipline of psychiatry and also to find a more positive identity as people who can help people who are mentally ill become mentally healthy.”

Norman and Ryrie

Political Questions

- *What – exactly – is mental health?*
- *What does it mean to be ‘mentally healthy’?*
- *What – exactly – is nursing?*
- *How does nursing help people become mentally healthy?*

Name games



Curious Inquiry

- What *is* 'psychiatric and mental health nursing?'
- How do nurses '*do*' P/MH nursing?

US Professor

” (PN) a subservient discipline and an extension of psychiatry's social control mechanisms, for the policing, containment and correction of already marginalised people”;

US Professor

” (which involves) carrying out a number of defensive, custodial, uncritical and often iatrogenic practices and treatments, based on a false epistemology and misrepresentation of what are, by and large, 'human problems of being' rather than so-called 'mental illnesses’”

US Professor

“(MHN) a specialty craft that operates primarily by working alongside people with mental health problems”

US Professor

“helping individuals and their families find ways of coping with the here and now (and past); helping people discover and ascribe individual meaning to their experiences”

US Professor

“exploring opportunities for recovery, reclamation and personal growth - all through the medium of the therapeutic relationship”

English Leader

“a broad and moveable spectrum of roles, responsibilities and practices, defined by the economics, institutions and policies of the day”.



English Leader

“As a result, P/MH nursing *cannot* be defined”.



Begging the question...

“how do I know what I am letting myself in for?”

The Myth of the Interpersonal Relationship



“Nurses claim that advocacy for patients, and consideration of their needs and interests as *persons*, having dignity and worth, are primary values inherent in the design and execution of nursing services.



Hilda Peplau
1995



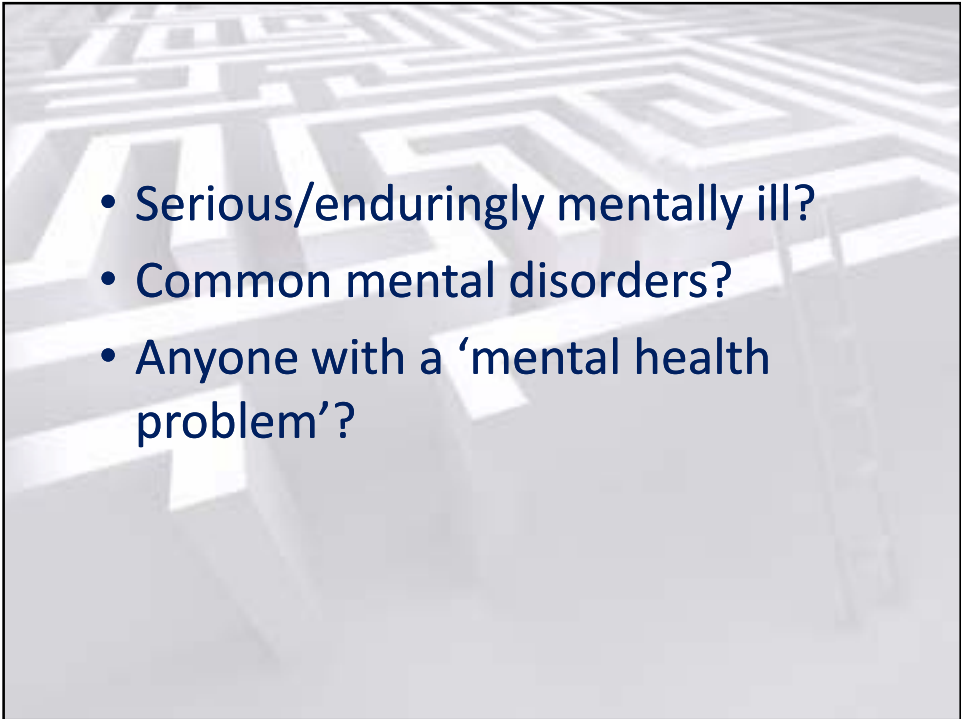
Hilda Peplau
1995

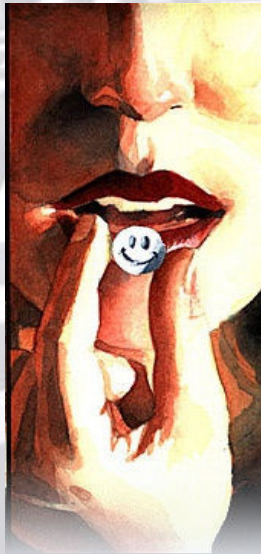
“In keeping with these claims, it would behoove nurses to *give up* the notion of a disease, such as schizophrenia, and to think exclusively of patients as *persons*”.

Dream on, Hilda
Political



Who is MH nursing for?

- 
- Serious/enduringly mentally ill?
 - Common mental disorders?
 - Anyone with a 'mental health problem'?



'Suffering' the consequences of:

- 'Poor' self-image
- Poor 'personal' development
- Poor parenting
- Unemployment
- Poverty
- 'Abuse' of any kind
- 'Purposelessness'
- 'Rat race' ideology
- Bad choices
- Misfortune


Lest we forget...
The pearls (perils)
of the nursing
academy

What do I know, anyway?

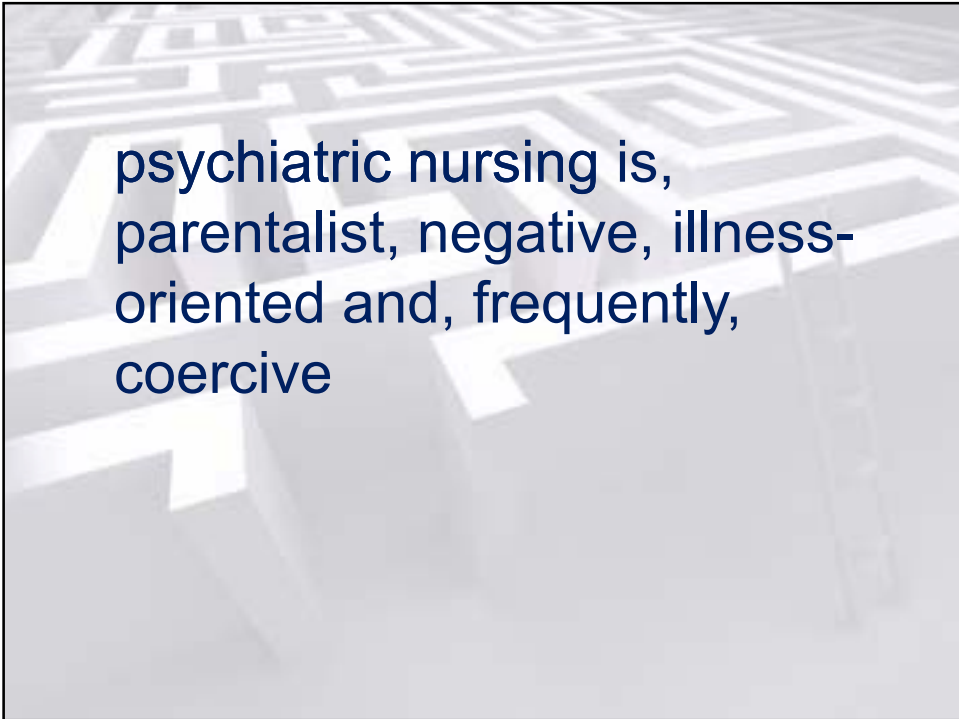
- Seclusion
- Control and restraint
- 'Obs'
- Sectioning
- Involuntary 'tranquillisation'

What do I know, anyway?

- Persons and people - 1980
- Caring at the 'care face'
- Theory and models



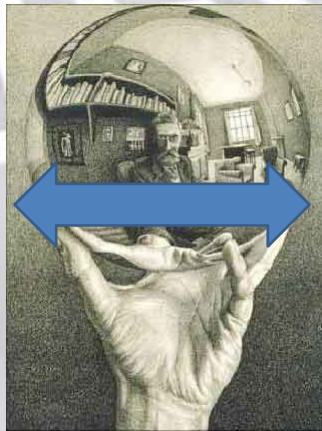
Could I become a
MH nurse, today?



psychiatric nursing is,
parentalist, negative, illness-
oriented and, frequently,
coercive

MHN purports to be
egalitarian, positive,
health-oriented and
collaborative.

PN



MHN



Grasping the nettle!