

In Memoriam

Margaret Jean Callbeck, R.N.

1916-1992

A. Hoffer, M.D., Ph.D.¹

After leaving the Navy as a nurse lieutenant, Miss Callbeck specialized in psychiatric nursing, taking most of her postgraduate training at the Allan Memorial Hospital in Montreal. In 1947 Miss Callbeck came to the Saskatchewan Hospital at Weyburn to become nurse instructor, under Dr. D. G. McKerracher. A couple of years later she was appointed head nurse at the Munroe Wing. Later she became one of the first research nurses in Canada when she joined the research team then being organized in Saskatchewan in 1954. We had just been given a Rockefeller Foundation Research Grant of 165,000 dollars (real 1954 dollars). Miss Callbeck was awarded a training grant to visit two research units in the U.S.A.: one at Tulane University in New Orleans where Professor R. Heath was doing his original work with schizophrenic patients and the second at the Psychiatric Institute in New York, where Dr. Nolan D.C. Lewis had assembled an amazing productive research team in psychiatry. She then created the psychiatric research nursing team to control all clinical research and to ensure that research protocols would be followed. She was one of the first nurses to volunteer for an LSD experience and later participated in an experiment which left her completely emotionally flat for two weeks (Hoffer and Callbeck, 1960).

In 1967 she left the research unit at the University of Saskatchewan to continue working in my office after I had started my private practice in Saskatoon and later in Victoria. She preferred to assist in the research I was still pursuing rather than to go back to a routine nursing position. She retired in 1984.

Miss Callbeck was one of the four authors who published the first major clinical report on the use of vitamin B₃ in large doses for the treatment of schizophrenia. She also published a number of other papers as shown in

the bibliography below.

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- Kelm H, Callbeck MJ & Hoffer A: A Short Form of the Hoffer-Osmond Diagnostic Test. *Int. J. Neuropsych.* 3:489-490, 1967.

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