

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	xii
Preface: Professional Nursing in America before the Nightingale Model	xiii
Introduction: That Something Different	1
Chapter 1: A Healing Heritage of Holistic Nursing Care	11
The Spirit of the Company	14
Holy Practices—Humility, Simplicity, and Charity	15
Poverty and Obedience	18
Common Rules	21
Migration of the Vincentian-Louisian Nursing Tradition to America	25
“ <i>That the Sick Poor May Not Be Kept Waiting</i> ”	30
Chapter 2: Holistic Education of the Sister of Charity Nurse	35
Contemplation in Action	37
Sister Mary Xavier Clark on the “ <i>Blessed Art</i> ”	42
Gathering Nursing Knowledge in Public	49
The First Hospital Mission at the Baltimore Infirmary	53
Learning from Doctors and Disease	60
Cholera Victims and Victors	64
Called to Nurse the Insane	67
Sister Matilda Coskery, 1828–1833	69
Serving the Insane at the Maryland Hospital, 1833–1838	75
Sister Servant in Richmond, Virginia, 1838–1840	80
Chapter 3: Sister Matilda—Moral Entrepreneur	83
Foundational Faith in Mission and Business	86
Leadership, Vision, and Hope	90
Moral Therapy and Social Justice	93
Striking a Balance between Freedom and Restraint	102
A Healing Environment	105
The Charity of Nurse Sectarians	111
Limits to Charity	115
Charity Begins at Home	118
Expanding the Reach of Intercession and Inspiration	124

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 4: The Doctor-Nurse Game: To Play or Not to Play	133
The Game	135
“Best” Practice and Professional Culture Clash	138
Sister Matilda’s Middle Years, 1849–1855	148
A Historical Privilege	156
Chapter 5: Sister Matilda Coskery’s Advices Concerning the Sick	161
The Voice of an “Oracle”	164
Judicious Nurses Know the Curative Point (Advices, Pages 1–7)	172
Recipes for Healing	177
Life and Death in the Hands of Nurses (Pages 7–16)	191
Emetics	192
Blistering	194
Mustard Plasters	197
Teas, Tonics &c.	198
Foot-Baths	199
Injections	201
Opiates	202
Cleanliness	203
General Remarks	204
“Simple” Advice, Titration, and Regulation (Pages 16–27)	206
Mania a Potu or Delirium Tremens	211
Cupping	223
Kindness, the Remedy of Remedies (Pages 28–44)	226
A Few Remarks on Insanity	228
Of Measurement	243
Nursing Science in the Mid-Nineteenth Century (Pages 45–46)	246
A Professional’s Exceptions	249
Sickroom Management (Pages 47–61)	252
Of the Faithful Administration of Medicines	255
Of Giving Drinks and Nourishments	256
Of Cleanliness in the Sick Room	257
Of Quiet in the Sick Room	259
Of Ventilating the Sick Room	261
Regulating the Warmth of the Patient	262
Examination & Preservation of the Excretions	263

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Of the Patient's Sitting Up	264
Making the Bed of the Sick	265
Of Dressing Blisters	267
Of Relapse	271
Fever	273
Nurses' Scope of Practice	280
Chapter 6: Revising the Legend and Repealing the Myth	283
Later Years of Compassionate Care, 1855–1870	284
Civil War, Nursing Both Sides	286
No Fear in Death	290
Thank God	293
End of an Era	296
Secularization of Nursing	300
The Myth About Early Nurses	303
Scotoma and Professional Identity	304
Constructing an American Legend	310
Lost in Transition	319
Trading Autonomy for Alignment	324
Epilogue: Enlightened Reform and Esprit de Corps	329
Appendices	337
A Maryland Hospital Rules and Regulations	337
B Advices Concerning the Sick (Full Text)	344
C Louise de Marillac's Schedule for Hospital Nurses	394
D Missions of Sister Matilda Coskery and Highlights of Antebellum American History	398
E Suggestions for Teaching Early American Nursing History	401
Endnotes	408
Bibliography	463
Index	489
About the Authors	503