

POET'S CORNER

The bleeding nurse who discovered verse

Patricia Bell

Trish Bell is rapidly making a name for herself as the HNA's resident poet. Here, in her own inimitable way, she tells us of her path towards haemophilia nursing

My story starts in 1980
When I was young and far less weighty
A career I needed, I could do worse
I decided to train to be a nurse.

I passed my A levels – I'm no fool
And off I went to nursing school
I started off, thinking what the heck!
In a pale blue uniform with a white check.

Anatomy and physiology
All those long words – all Greek to me!
Then off to the wards we all were sent
For our very first clinical placement

We learned to do the nursing jobs
Make beds, do dressings, give medicines,
do obs,
Recording fluids – tea, water and juice
Testing urine in the sluice

None of us students were great fans
When patients needed to use bed pans
Oh yes we learnt those nursing tricks
On medical, surgical and orthopaedics
One of the highlights – this isn't a maybe
Was maternity and seeing the birth of a baby
Assisting the doctor with surgery
Operating theatres – not my cup of tea
I quite enjoyed the children's ward
So much to do you never got bored

My training flew by very fast
And soon my state finals I had passed
A staff nurse it was truly me
With a job in gynaecology

Four years later and going well
And then my body began to swell
I had a secret up my sleeve
I would soon be going on maternity leave
I now must bring you up to date



And tell you of my current fate
I've done mad jobs but this is less sillier
I work with patients with haemophilia
A condition sometimes hard to spot
When blood is slow or will not clot

I'm doing a job I like – I'm blessed
And so dear reader you know the rest
The ups, the downs, good days and bad
Days that nearly drive you mad
Through gritted teeth I often smile
But somehow it is all worthwhile

My knowledge I am always sharing
To help young boys become self-caring
An achievement of which they often brag
But they wouldn't do this if I didn't nag

So now dear reader I need to end
I've got patients waiting for me to mend
Just one more thing I need to say
See you all at HNA
Fingers crossed I'll get time
To read you another crazy rhyme.

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