. Record Nr.	UNINA9910787500003321
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Titolo	Bedside matters : the transformation of Canadian nursing, 1900-1990 / / / Kathryn McPherson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 2012 ©2003
ISBN	1-4426-5890-8 1-4426-2798-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (356 p.)
Collana	Canadian Social History Series
Disciplina	610.73/0971
Soggetti	Nurses - Canada - History - 20th century Nursing - Canada - History - 20th century History Electronic books. Canada
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 329-334) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter Contents List of Tables Acknowledgements 1. Gender, Class, and Ethnicity: Reconceptualizing the History of Nursing 2. Nursing Classes: The Second Generation of Trained Nurses, 1900-1920 3. Rituals and Resistance: The Content of Nurses'Work, 1900-1942 4. An Occupation in Crisis: The Third Generation of Canadian Nurses, 1920-1942 5. 'The Case of the Kissing Nurse': Femininity, Sociability, and Sexuality, 1920-1968 6. Contradictions and Continuities: The Fourth Generation of Canadian Nurses, 1942- 1968 7. 'The Price of Generations': Canadian Nursing Under Medicare, 1968-1990 Notes Suggested Readings in Nursing History Index Backmatter
Sommario/riassunto	Nursing embodies the seemingly timeless characteristics of feminine healing, caring, and nurturing, yet this archetypally female vocation also boasts a distinctive and complex history. Bedside Matters traces four generations of Canadian nurses to explore changes in who became nurses, what work they performed, and how they organized to defend

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their occupational interests. Whether in the apprenticeship method of the early twentieth century or in the present day restructuring of hospital work, the position of nurses within the health-care system has been structured by class, gender, and ethnic and racial relations. Located between the doctors and untrained or subsidiary patient-care attendants, nurses have struggled to define the boundaries of their occupation vis à vis other members of the health-care hierarchy, even as tensions between bedside and administrative nurses created divisions within nursing itself. Focusing on the daily labours of 'ordinary nurses', McPherson argues that the persisting sex-typing of nursing as women's work has meant that gender consistently complicated nursing's easy categorization as either professional or proletariat. Combining archival records and oral histories, the author shows how nurses, in their work, activities, and social and sexual attitudes, sought recognition as skilled workers in the health-care system. Previously published by Oxford University Press