

Montana Episodes

Diary of a Night Nurse, Butte, Montana, 1909

by Beatrice Murphy

*"Blessed is he who expects nothing
for he gets it."*

Murray Hospital
Butte, Mont. Nov 1st to 30th
In the year of our Lord 1909

MONDAY NIGHT NOV 1ST 09
Reported on duty at 7 P.M. Got orders by the wholesale. Favored everybody with a dazzling smile Rushed madly around trying to get things done till midnight when there was a change for the better. Helped Miss Donegan get supper. Ate supper with feverish haste. Fixed up miner with scalp wound Ditto with crushed finger Took temperatures, gave medicines, &c. Wrote two letters. Started to write a book on hospital life Answered telephone calls. Started to do my morning work. Finished some of it. Called the day nurses Handed in my nightly report to Miss [Katherine J.] McGregor. She seemed pleased. Tripped down stairs with a light heart. Worked some more Everything done nicely Tired feet, but nothing more. Walked 200 miles all told since 7 P.M. No scraps, no biffs Very uneventful night

TUESDAY NIGHT NOV 2-09
Reported on duty at 7 as usual. Went around to all my patient's rooms Noted changes in their conditions. Some favorable and some worse. Administered doses of Castor Oil to a privileged few. Fixed oil with lemon juice and "fizz" Thought of a day perhaps in the dim future when

I, too, would have to take some. Answered door bell Admitted miner with bruised head, saved his life by performing surgical operation on head. broke one needle (didn't swear) Assisted at operation by Dr. McCrackin first assistant Miss Donegan second assistant Floated up to the 5th floor Ate supper of fried chicken accompanied by Miss [Martha] Mitchell (no comment necessary) Answered telephone calls Fixed up my records. Answered bells till the Lord called on me to stop. Sympathized with Miss Ylintello on the corn and bunion question. Did my morning work, called the day nurses. Sailed in Miss McGregor's room. Gave my report of night work with confident air. Finished up. Ate breakfast. Very good night

WEDNESDAY NIGHT NOV 3-09
Reported on duty three minutes late owing to a fresh air crusade. Visited all the patients administering smiles and cheers hand over fist Admitted three men. One with a rock in the tail of his eye. Another with dilapidated finger and still another who declared his hand was broken but which proved to be a ruptured vein. Lady called to see Dr. [T. J.] Murray.¹ Summoned him to an audience with said lady. Tried to get a little sleep on the table with a roll of cotton under my head. Didn't get any sleep at all. Bells buzzed continually. Called Dr. [Charles]

1. T. J. Murray was president of Murray Hospital in 1910.

Rodes once. Invented a new patent for waking up Dr. McCrackin, which will be made known to the public at a later date. Worked for 4 hours on patent. Ate supper. Gave medicines Took temps Finished reading "Dream Days" Called the day nurses with the exception of Mrs. [Isabell] Gage who was already up & dressed Reported to Miss McGregor Was told to not bang doors Felt rather guilty. Departed downstairs with solemn step and downcast eye. Finished work. Ate breakfast. Bully good night.

THURSDAY NIGHT NOV 4 '09
Came on duty with a favorable disposition which soon changed to one of ire. After being accused of something I never was guilty of, wished I were blessed with a revengeful disposition so I could get even with certain people in this institution (no names mentioned) Went around and did my work just the same. But felt badly all night Couldn't even eat supper. Felt so bad that I wanted to die but death refused to come my way. Treated all my patients extra good in an effort to forget my own troubles Admitted two patients Every room occupied. Glad that I can keep busy. Answered telephones, bells, and door bells. Gave medicines. Took temperatures & tried to be cheerful to everybody. Started to read "The Mill on the Floss" but couldn't get interested. Called the day nurses at 6:30 as usual. Handed in my report to Miss McGregor Came down to the 3rd



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These nurses posed on the stairs at the Butte's Murray-Freund Hospital in about 1902. Pictured are (1) Elizabeth McVicar, superintendent of nurses; (2) Isabell McLennan; (3) Mrs. Thompson; and (4) Margaret McHenry.

floor. Called Dr. McCrackin by pounding on door. was rewarded by being answered in a sleepy voice Retraced my steps up stairs & went to bed. Awful night.

FRIDAY NIGHT NOV 5-09

Reported on duty at the usual time. Everything in good shape. Visited my patients who seemed glad to see me. Did the Good Samaritan stunt by giving Dr. [Alfred] Karsted a refreshing glass of buttermilk after his lecture to the nurses. Went down to the 3rd floor & visited two new cases of pneumonia Called Dr. Rodes to see them Came up stairs to answer telephone call. Ran down the hall & in my hurry bumped my pet corn against a rocking chair Opened my mouth and let some unearthly yelps Never had anything hurt so

bad in my life. Thought I was going to die of collapse. Imagined I could hear the recording Angel say "Come thou good and faithful Servant" Limped around all night with sore toe. Miner appeared on the scene with cut head. Was going to call Dr. McCrackin but changed my mind and sewed it up myself Man said he would just as soon have me do it, said it was a pleasure &c &c Went up stairs. Ate supper. Did the rest of the work. Called day nurses Reported to Miss McGregor. Finished up. Marvelous night

SATURDAY NIGHT NOV 6-09

Appeared on the scene at the usual time. Found all the day nurses in good spirits (something unusual going to happen) Walked gracefully down the hall Visited by dear

patients One man offered me a bottle of beer. Which I refused with becoming dignity. Elevated my nose among the clouds & tried to look horrified One of my lady patients started to have fits, which lasted one half hour. Nothing slow about the way she screamed. Had to shut all the windows for fear of attracting the attention of some passing policeman. Four miners decided to get hurt for a change. Fixed them all up & sent them on their way rejoicing. Answered telephone bells & door bells as fast as I could go Almost had a fight with Miss Donegan. But didn't think it worth while Took a telephone message for Miss Spelman from one of her many admirers Started to take temps and do my morning work. Called the day Nurses Reported to Miss McGregor

A very mild report. Finished work
ate breakfast. Good Night

SUNDAY NIGHT NOV 7-'09

Put in an appearance at 7 P.M.
Scattered kindness broadcast. Felt
badly because all the day nurses
were going out to have a good time.
While I had to put my nose to the
grind stone. Heart ache only lasted a
little while Favored the sick with a
vision of my cheerful face. Had the
extreme pleasure of seeing Dr.
[Thomas C.] Witherspoon who
gazed at me very kindly
Administered medicines in all
shapes & forms Admired Mrs.
Gage's new hat with white plume
Had an awful feeling of jealousy
come over my entire person when I
heard that Miss [Jennie] Curie went
to church with Mr. [Alexander]
Patterson.² Planned designs on Miss
Curie's life. Sewed up Miner's ear.
Was offered two dollars tip Was
game enough to refuse it. Although
it looked good to "Willie" Made the
terrible mistake of the season by
waking up Dr. McCrackin. Forgot to
use new patent Answered door bells
& telephones by the wholesale Fixed
up the charts. Took temps called
day Nurses. Reported to Miss
McGregor. Finished work. Dandy
Night

MONDAY NIGHT NOV 8. '09

Came on duty a few minutes late on
account of visiting with some of the
day nurses. Was afraid to miss
something Admitted Dutchman the
first thing on the program Forced
him to take a bath under penalty of
death. Was very kind to the dear
sick. Mine accident in the shape of a
man with hurt back. Armed myself
with a large hammer & proceeded to
wake up Dr. McCrackin After
pounding on the door for some time
was rewarded by a feeble cry of
welcome. Dr. appeared before me
clad in a London smoke bath robe
which took my eye & was certainly
very classy Fixed up man's back and
sent him home to the bosom of his
family Door bell rang again. The
offending party was just Dr. Murray
who condescended to smile at me.
Gave him a look as much to say
"Slave bend down and tie my

². Alexander Patterson was secretary-
treasurer of Murray Hospital.



Murray Hospital, located on the corner of Quartz and
Alaska in Butte, is shown here on a color postcard in about
1911.

MHS Photograph Archives

shoestring" Came upstairs & worked
awful hard. Almost forgot to eat
supper Had a debate with my two
partners on the "Man Question" Got
disgusted & went to work some
more. Called day nurses Reported to
Miss McGregor. Finished & ate
breakfast. Very good night

TUESDAY NIGHT NOV 9. '09

Reported on duty at 7. Everybody
looked happy & things went along
very nicely. Floated around to see
my patients got candy by the
wholesale Telephones rang
continually One mine call for man
with crushed foot. Fixed him up and
sent home Admitted man with Mitral
Stenosis. Also baby with Adonoids.
Made them feel comfortable.
Answered door bell several times
Took temperatures Gave medicines
& different treatments Criticized
Miss Donegan's way of getting
supper. Felt like fighting with
somebody but didn't. Sewed up three
cuts on miners head He wanted to
faint while undergoing the operation
Gave him big drink of whiskey and
used Christian Science. Which soon
revived him. Came up stairs & tried
to eat supper, but was interrupted six
times to attend to patients. Spoke to
Dr. [H. J.] McDonald about the
weather. Read the Nursing Journal.

Started my morning work Called the
day Nurses Reported to Miss
McGregor in detail. Got teased at
breakfast about some body. Very
nice Night

WEDNESDAY NIGHT NOV 10-'09

Came on duty with a light heart.
Found work much harder than
usual. New Case just operated on.
Had an awful time trying to keep up
with bells & telephones. Miss
Donegan very kindly helped as
much as possible under the
circumstances. Thought I would
never get thru. Managed to eat
supper. Took temps & gave
medicine Fixed charts. Studied my
text book of nursing Started to read
an article on foreign politics Couldn't
understand it as my knowledge of
politics is rather limited Felt awful
sleepy. Had to pinch myself to keep
awake between bells Wrote a very
loving letter to Bernie. Got busy
again with the morning work. Tried
to make a fuss over Mollie so she'd
help me. Got 6 o'clock breakfast for
one of my patients. Called the day
nurses except Mrs Gage who was
already up and dressed. Reported to
Miss McGregor. Meandered down
stairs took some cough medicine.
Finished up ate breakfast. Medium
Night

THURSDAY NIGHT NOV 11. 09

Came on duty at 7. in the very best of spirits for reasons known only to myself. Was very hilarious with all my patients. Got some candy Saw Miss Currie's affinity Tried to make a hit Went crazy over Mrs. [Lucie] Woillard's new brown dress Saw Alice. Was invited out to dinner also automobile ride Rushed around and worked real fast. Was surprised to see Miss McGregor on the 4th floor. Thought I was going to get corrected about something which caused my heart to move six inches upward in my thoracic cavity. My fears were groundless. Took two men's histories in the ward. Called down a "drunk." Made him feel like two cents. Door bell rang. admitted Miner with bandaged hand—said both arteries were cut. Called Dr. McCrackin who took the precaution to lock his door. No arteries cut in fellow's hand, just a vein. Made me feel cheap for waking up Dr. Started my morning work took temps. Gave medicines Called day Nurses. Reported to Miss McG. finished. quiet night

FRIDAY NIGHT NOV 12-'09

Was a little late coming on duty on account of being invited out to supper. Visited the dear sick. Acted the part of a ministering angel Gave cathartics. Answered bells, telephone &c. Got a swell compliment which made me feel as if walking on air Had the same effect as a cardiac stimulant Made me feel good all night. Newspaper reporter who was threatened with pneumonia called to have me prescribe for him Gave him a bottle of oil & turpentine to rub on his manly bosom and sent him home Felt bad because Miss Donegan got mad at me for waking her up. Called man down for ringing his bell so hard. Elevated my mind by study. Started my morning work real early so I could send my laundry out. Finished it. Called the day nurses at 6.30. Reported to Miss McGregor. Was told to make the nurses keep still at the breakfast table. Tried to do it but didn't make a hit. Finished breakfast, repaired to my apartments. easy night

SATURDAY NIGHT NOV 13-'09

Favored the company with my

presence at 7 Went around to see my patients, gave catartics and drinks. Was mad because Miss Donegan went to the "Majestic" and had a good time while Miss Ylitello and I had to work. Answered telephone & door bells as usual. Called Dr. Rodes twice felt sorry for him because it was so cold out doors Decided that its no fun to be a Dr. on cold frosty nights Would rather be some thing easy if I were a man Fixed up miner with awful eye. Sewed it up in two places. Almost called Dr. McCrackin but in my charity decided to let him repose in the arms of Morpheus. Sewed up another eye in a different man Smiled very sweetly on both men who seemed to be quite impressed Didn't eat any supper Started to read "The Barrier" by Rex Beach Did my morning work Called Day Nurses Reported to Miss McG Ate breakfast. Gave a carnation to Mr. Patterson as a token of my love retired good night

SUNDAY NIGHT NOV 14—1909

Reported on duty at the usual hour. Flipped around from room to room with a determination worthy of a better cause Met a man whom Miss Tribey introduced to me as her husband. didn't know she was married but one can never tell anything about a nurse Got a freezer of ice cream flavored with champagne from Charlie Had swell supper Answered bells, made out charts. Took temperatures, gave medicines &c &c Called Dr. McCracken to fix miner with frontal artery cut. Started to do it myself but got cold feet. Read a part of "The Barrier," also an article on bowel obstruction by Dr. Witherspoon Got sleepy, chased imaginary shadows around the halls to keep awake Started to do my morning work. Had to call Dr. McCracken again. Felt really sorry for him this time. Woke up day nurses Reported to Miss McGregor Ate breakfast retired to slumber and beautiful night

MONDAY NIGHT NOV. 15 1909

The curtain rose at 7 P.M. to find me at the post of duty like the faithful person that I am. Did the same old stunts of answering telephones, bells, and door bells. Visited patients

and found everybody rather quarrelsome Had some fudge made by the expert hand of C. M. Spelman. Tried to make things easy for Miss Lockey, it being her first night on duty Got a telephone message from Bessie asking me to do her a favor which I will consider Ate supper cooked by Miss Donegan. Called Dr. McCrackin to fix man with something in his eye. Sewed up miners head who insisted on putting his arm around me so he would not fall off the chair. Called him down once but did not get desired results. Opened the door for Miss [Florence] Walters accompanied by a man. Was completely shocked. Came upstairs and worked like mad Called the day nurses reported to Miss MacGregor. Ate breakfast. extraordinary night

TUESDAY NIGHT NOV 16—'09

Made a noise like a hoop and rolled down stairs at 7. Found two new patients awfully sick. Rescued them from the jaws of death and the mouth of hell. Was given a caranation which I will treasure to my dying day in remembrance of my Celtic affinity. Found Miss Tribey in 405 bathroom having a fist fight with two enema cans. Smiled a sad sweet smile at her and departed, leaving her to her fate One of my lady patients got smitten on me to such an extent as to try to hug me. Which proceedings I resented with a ferocious glare of my otherwise mild orbits Called Dr. Rodes to the telephone. Was surprised by a hasty call from Dr. Karsted. Door bell rang wildly. Went down stairs and came face to face with a so called broken arm. Made a bee line for Dr. McCrackin's apartments and roused him from his nightmare. Came upstairs took temperatures &c. Called day watch. Handed in my usual "speel" to Mis McGregor Felt very important Finished. Charming night

WEDNESDAY NIGHT NOV. 17—'09

Came on duty at 7 P.M. Visited my patient whose faces lit up with a hopeful smile. Radiated cheerfulness every where Bells started to ring as if the world were coming to an end. "Hopped" telephone calls and doorbells. Man came to the door

who said he had Addison's disease. Dismissed him & charged him to tell no man. Gave Miss Donegan & Miss Locky some motherly advice regarding their work. Got two mine calls at once Aroused Dr McCrackin from his pleasant dreams. Worked down in the dressing room till knees started to give way. Managed to get upstairs without any serious results Ate supper. Relaxed my aching muscles for a few moments Was beginning to do my morning work when telephone rang furiously requesting me to send out the ambulance at once. Had to go thru the painful process of waking up Dr. McCrackin again (No rest for the wicked) Finished up every thing Called day nurses Reported to Miss McGregor in a mild voice. Departed down stairs retired. Busy night

THURSDAY NIGHT NOV 18—'09
Showed up at the usual hour. Went around from room to room with characteristic grace. Jollied the patients whom I thought fit to jolly Sympathised with some and treated a few with cool dignity Saw Miss McGregor looking down the stairway. Felt the coldest kind of a chill run up my spinal vertebrae and right thru my medulla oblongata. Felt as guilty as if I had been talking to one of the firemen next door. She said nothing & I got immediate relief Did the usual work of answering bells &c &c Received several telephone messages asking about patients Ate supper cooked by Miss Locky Had a new dish which I named "potatoe slop" made from a recipe which I hope is not to be found in Mrs. Lincoln's cookbook. Never tasted anything like it in my life Was handed the worst bunch of sarcasm by Miss Donegan Flew down stairs & tried to sooth my shattered feelings. Went to work thinking it isn't all sunshine to be a night "Supe" Called day nurses reported to Miss McGregor Finished nice night

FRIDAY NIGHT NOV 19—'09
Stalked on duty with glad and gallant step Was met on the 4th floor by Dr. Rodes who hurt my feelings to such an extent as to almost make me weep Walked over by the desk sat down & poured forth my soul in

song till the call of duty roused me from my reverie. Went down to answer door bell. Was confronted by a miner with crushed foot. Took him in the dressing room and hypnotized him with my magic power. Fixed his foot with skillful touch and sent him forth to face life's battles afresh. Gave pills to all my patients and tried to be faithful unto death about answering bells. Fixed my charts was called a "ministering angel" by a certain individual. Fussed over a sick baby till things began to swim before my vision Couldn't eat supper. Rested awhile to regain my equilibrium Did my morning work Called day nurses. Reported to Miss MacGregor in the cool gray dawn Went to breakfast. Had a social chat with the kids Retired to my "budvoir." very XXX night

SATURDAY NIGHT NOV 20—'09
Came on duty a few minutes late on account of holding a meeting in my apartments Went down to the 3rd floor and found every one of Miss Walters patients "spooning" Decided they were following the example of their nurse who gets quite spoony at times. Fixed my charts and answered all kinds of bells Miner introduced himself at the door and said he was afflicted with cramps. Had to call Dr. McCrackin whose disposition was none too sweet. Sent man home in a cab. Came upstairs Had supper. Door bell rang again. Went down and found nobody there. ran back the hall with cold beads of perspiration on my marble brow. Felt as if some invisible hand were going to grab me from the back and say, "Villian I shall murder thee immediately" Managed to get to the 4th floor and sat on the table with cold extremities Gained enough strength to do my morning work Called day nurses, reported to Miss MacGregor, proceeded down stairs, finished. clammy night

SUNDAY NIGHT NOV 21—'09
Reported on deck promptly at 7. Found two new patients awaiting my gentle care. Flipped around from room to room and got thru real early. Pushed a drunken man off the elevator & showed him the door. No bells ringing for some unknown reason Wrote two letters and read

the society news. Started to study my "physiology & Anatomy." Felt a wave of sympathy arise in my snowy bosom for Miss Donegan. Went up to the 5th floor and volunteered to get supper, had a very delightful repast, retraced my steps down stairs and sat by the desk. Got to thinking seriously on the vanities of this world Decided that man is but a shadow and life a dream Built some beautiful castles in the sunny land of Spain. Came back to earth after a while & found myself in the unromantic atmosphere of Murray Hospital Pinched myself and went around to see if my charges were all right Started to work taking temps &c. Called day nurses Said my little say to Miss McGregor. Had breakfast. retired. Lonesome night

MONDAY NIGHT NOV 22—'09
Hove in sight at 7. Started to feel badly right away it being Miss Donegan's last night on Tried to dispel the awful gloomy feeling which took possession of my inmost soul. Went around to see my beloved patients. Found them all beaming with happiness at the prospect of seeing my gentle eye Took telephone calls and fixed charts. Answered bells studied the function of the liver Saw the manly form of Dr. [Donald] Campbell³ approaching up the hall Felt a strange thrill of delight at seeing him Was sorry for Dr. [Herbert O.] Kistler⁴ because he had such a bad cold. Went upstairs. Ate supper. Doorbell buzzed went down & beheld sorry looking object which on closer inspection proved to be a miner with a red bandana tied gracefully around his Fissure of Rolando. Extended the glad hand and invited him into the dressing room. Sewed up his head with a vim of determination Dismissed him into the mysterious air of night Worked awful hard for 3 hours. Called day nurses Reported to Miss McG. partook of light breakfast retired to dreamland. nifty night

TUESDAY NIGHT NOV 23—'09
Reported on duty at 7 P.M. Visited patients, found everything in fine

3. Donald Campbell was the president of Murray Hospital in 1909.

4. Herbert O. Kistler was the coroner and undertaker for Butte.



MHS Photograph Archives

Night nurse Beatrice Murphy reported each night to Katherine J. McGregor, who was superintendent of nurses at Butte's Murray Hospital from 1909 to 1911.

shape. Was given some rose leaves to make a pillow for my future home. Was asked to read an article on old maids which I refused to do. Answered the usual number of telephone calls & bells gave medicines Fixed charts & C. Read "Tales of the Cloister" didn't like it very well. Saw somebody trying to "spoon" on the 4th floor by the desk. Won't tell who it was for various reasons Was jealous of Miss [Alice E.] Greenough because she got new patient in the shape of a Scotch piper who wore kilts. Went up stairs & cooked supper to suit myself. Made

a solemn resolution that I would never marry a man unless he could afford a cook. Manicured my finger nails to kill time. Wished that something exciting would happen Got very sleepy and tried to study. Morning came at last. Started my work early. Called day nurses at 6:30. Reported to Miss McGregor. had breakfast. retired to the arms of Morpheus very quiet Night

WEDNESDAY NIGHT NOV 24—'09
Appeared on duty at the time appointed. Visited the afflicted and felt sorry for everybody except

myself. Came to the conclusion that I was a very lucky person indeed Praised & glorified God for His goodness to me. Met a man at the door earlier in the evening who asked me for an *awl*. Didn't know just what he meant but told him I didn't have any Miss Greenough tried to make me believe that it was a proposal Wonder what she thinks I am. Answered bells & gave the usual medicines Took care of baby while its mother went down town. Was strong minded enough to refuse a tip Dr. McDonald called and made a fuss over baby Decided that he was

real nice. Got Miss Greenough mad at me for reasons which I don't quite understand. Had the nerve to eat supper while she was still mad at me. Came down stairs and read some startling things in a book called "Sagebrush Philosophy" Did morning work. Called day nurses. Reported to Miss McG. retired. Admirable night

THURSDAY NIGHT NOV 25—'09
Came on duty after being out to Thanksgiving dinner Examined the patients with critical eye Was glad to find Miss Greenough in the best of humor. Told myself she could be real charming if she wanted to. Saw a man make a fuss over his wife. Was very much surprised. Didn't know that men were "Spoony" after being married (I mean with their wives of course) I don't know very much about such things. Never having been there myself One patient told me she thought I was the head nurse. Made an immediate dash for the linen room and pinned elastic bandage tightly around my chest to keep from getting swelled up. Didn't dare to think how Miss McGregor would feel if she heard such a remark Dr. McCrackin never came up stairs tonight. somebody felt awful bad. It wasn't "Willie" I am too professional and dignified to harbor such foolish thoughts Didn't eat supper. Did my work extra early. Called day nurses Speeled it off to Miss McG. Had slight nourishment. retired. Dandy night

FRIDAY NIGHT NOV 26—'09
Reported at head quarters at 7 P.M. Visited my patients promptly and was very businesslike. Clinic held on Miss Lockey's elbow by Drs McCrackin & Rodes No bones broken which caused the victim to be sadly disappointed Called up a minister of the gospel to prepare a man for death. Mad died before priest arrived Miss Greenough very kindly stayed with him while he was breathing his last Sent for coroner and undertaker to dispose of the remains Got supper unaided partook of some which didn't taste very good Made a raid hunting for furniture for the night nurses room stole a table and three chairs assisted by Miss

Greenough. Started morning work. Called day nurses Told Miss McGregor my "tale of night" Had breakfast Floated down to the dressing room. sharpened razor to cut my corns Tried to steal some pictures for our room but was prevented by Mr. Patterson Cut part of my toe off with razor. Wept & went to bed. strenuous night

SATURDAY NIGHT NOV 27—'09
Arrived in port at the same old time. Found everything very quiet. "Smole" a sweet smile at the afflicted Did a land office business at answering telephones & bells. Made a decided hit with one of my patient's friends Was asked to go out for a ride. looked very Coy & kittenish & didn't know what to do it being an unexpected shock to my nerves Admitted man with cut head Sewed it up securely Didn't have to use a razor because of his resemblance to Dr. Murray's cranium Another miner appeared with contused knee and eyebrow hanging completely down over left orbit. Did a fixation on eye brow and presented him with a bottle of liniment for knee with instructions to apply p-r-w Miss Greenough & myself decided to make a rag carpet for night nurses room. Got tired of asking for a rug. Dr. McCrackin very kindly donated a tie to start with. Didn't eat supper. Finished work Called day nurses. Told Miss McG what an awful night we had (curtain) peaceful night

SUNDAY NIGHT NOV 28 '09
Reported on duty at 7 P.M. Visited patients Gave medicines. Answered bells & telephones, manicured finger nails while things were quiet Miss Greenough carried things too far by painting her face & lips Made her look like a fright. She probably thought she would make a hit but got left The excitement of the evening happened when one of Miss Lockey's patients did the acrobatic stunt of the season by falling out of bed and hitting his upper extremity against the radiator I rushed madly down to the field of action and with the Assistance of Divine Providence got him safely back to bed again. The reporters called up wanting to know if there were any accidents I didn't tell them what I knew. Had

supper cooked by the expert hand of Miss Greenough. Made plans for organizing a foot ball team among the nurses Appointed Miss Olson as center rush Did the morning work Reported to Miss McGregor in awe struck tones. Retired to sleep. Swell night

MONDAY NIGHT NOV 29—'09
Came on deck at 7 P.M. sharp. Found five new patients awaiting my gentle touch. Tried to make an impression on them with my virtuous personality . . . Had to answer all kinds of bells and telephones Worked till I was perspiring freely. Felt weak all over Almost made up my mind to go out to the fire station and apply for a job attaching the hose Changed my course. Went up stairs ate supper with deliberate taste . . . Told Miss McG a very brilliant report. went to my apartments. Unspeakable night

TUESDAY NIGHT NOV 30—'09
Reported at headquarters at 7 P.M. Work much harder than usual. Every room occupied. Rushed around with the speed of a locomotive. In the midst of my hurry miner arrived suffering from a broken clavical. The attending physician aimlessly remarked that it was caused from trying to walk on his shoulder (very brilliant indeed) Tried to do what I could to relieve suffering humanity. Extended sympathy to Miss Greenough because she got "sat on" Read "The Straw" by Rina Ramsey very racey book Went on an exploring trip down to the first floor accompanied by Miss Lockey Looted the Drs. dining room "bagged" some salad and a dish of nuts. Thought we heard Lena on our trail. Made a wild dash for liberty and escaped by way of the elevator to the 5th floor & the protecting arms of Miss Greenough Had supper. started morning work taking temps &c Felt sorry because it was my last night Called day nurses approached Miss McGregor & told her "the old, old story." retired. Impossible Night

Beatrice Murphy's journal was transcribed by Teresa Jordan through Sister Kathleen O'Sullivan. It is reprinted here with the permission of the Butte-Silver Bow Archives, Butte, Montana.