

BOOK REVIEWS

The Riehl Interaction Model in Action

Betty Kershaw and Bob Price

MACMILLAN 159 PAGES ISBN 0-333-57277-7

The Riehl Interaction Model in Action is the latest publication in the 'Nursing Model in Action' series. The model is based on symbolic interactionism. The theory was first proposed by the Chicago School of Sociologists. Symbolic interactionism is a difficult concept which may explain the relative obscurity of the model.

The authors, however, went to great lengths to make the model accessible for the reader. It is written in an easily readable style. The book has three distinct sections. The first one discusses the nature of the model. The second part follows a case study approach. The last part offers a critique of the model by discussing strengths and weaknesses.

I particularly liked the inclusion of revision questions and exercises; these should encourage the student to participate in active learning. The case study approach may also appeal to many nurses, since it highlights the flexibility and versatility of the model by demonstrating its application to different settings.

The concept of symbolic interactionism is, however, a complex one, the complexity of the model makes it less easily understandable to a novice. The book may not, therefore, be suitable to students at an early stage of the Common Foundation Programme, but it should be especially useful for more experienced students and qualified nurses in the era of the 'Named Nurse'. Copies of the book should be available in libraries.

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