

EDITORIAL

In this issue we have reports from last year's summer study day on 'promoting yourself and your service'. Marketing a library service is an important issue when libraries have to justify their cost and we have views of this from the theoretical and practical perspectives. Lest we forget, our image may be as much to do with how we present ourselves as what services we provide. One of our speakers addressed that issue.

We also have reports from Scotland and Northern Ireland on the reorganisation of nurse education in those places. Managers in health services, universities and libraries have had plenty of opportunities to discover how not to carry out such exercises. Let us hope that they have learnt some lessons.

New technology and the changing role of libraries continue to have an impact on nursing libraries. The Royal College of Midwives library in London has been closed and the RCM *Current Awareness Service* has ceased publication. The RCM has decided that the information needs and delivery to midwives needs to reflect new technology. Some midwives are alarmed at the closure of the library and the LfN and LA are greatly concerned and have been in communication with the RCM.

Another development in IT is the combination of the *RCN Nurse - ROM* and the *Nursing and Midwifery Index* to form the *British Nursing Index* which is to be available during 1997 on CD-ROM and on the Internet. See the item in this issue. Let's hope they combine the comprehensiveness of the RCN Nurse with its British material and the up-to-date-ness of the NMI. Then they will rival the Americans.

The coming months should see the publication of the EVINCE project on how information can contribute to continuing education in nursing. The Library and Information Commission's health panel has also commissioned a study on library and information services to the nursing professional. This is being carried out by Sue Capel at the University of Northumbria at Newcastle. The interim report shows that a lot has been achieved in a very short time. Like EVINCE, the final report should be available by May of this year. The *Bulletin* will seek to keep you informed of developments.

L/N would like to wish Veronica Fraser well in her new post as NHS Library Advisor. As Professional Advisor : Special Libraries with the Library Association, she would attend L/N Committee meetings armed with much needed practical and useful advice.

If you have any practical and useful advice, or simply wish to keep us informed about what you are doing, then the *Bulletin* would be pleased to hear from you. Oh, and if you were hoping to find out what response we got to last issue's questionnaire, and whether you've won £20 in the prize draw - all will be revealed in Volume 17.

The Editors