

BOOK REVIEW

Groenman N H , Slevin O D'A and Buckenham M A **Social and behavioural sciences for nurses** Leiden. Campion Integrated Studies Series, 1992

This textbook states that it is specifically prepared for the Project 2000 Diploma course for nurses and incorporates psychology, sociology and communication studies. As a basic text the book admirably addresses some of the basic concepts of the three subject areas.

The book is "user friendly" in that it is easy to find one's way around both in terms of reading the text or to access specific information. An additional quality is the interactive nature of the text. It is divided into five modules: psychology – an introduction; developmental psychology; social psychology and sociology; the psychology of health; and social skills. Each of the modules commences with an overview and each of the subsequent chapters is introduced and includes specific learning outcomes which orientate the reader towards potential learning opportunities. This approach effectively prepares the reader to engage in the study activities within the text. Patient/client scenarios are effectively employed to illustrate and highlight specific points. Finally at the end of the module an opportunity to test the knowledge gained ensures the comprehensive interaction between the reader and the text.

Each of the modules provides references that are up to date or are the seminal texts students would wish to be familiar with.

As an initial text this book can be highly recommended and should be considered for purchase, as a basic text, by

both students and more importantly college of nursing libraries, to provide the necessary access to initial literature required during the common foundation programme of Project 2000. However additional literature is needed if focusing on specific areas of study or upon commencement of the branch programmes.

One note of caution the reader should keep in mind is the potential medical bias and the reactive approach to patient problems as opposed to the increasing awareness in nursing of the proactive approach in the promotion of health. This is particularly noted in the psychology of health module where opportunities to explore the psychosocial variables for health have only briefly been addressed and the module takes an approach to understanding the pathology of illness.

A very worthwhile and comprehensive text which is recommended as an introductory text for students to the social and behavioural sciences in health care.

Julia Mingay, Lecturer in Psychology, IANE, Royal College of Nursing.

JOURNALS NEWS

Nursing (Springhouse) – the missing pages

How many other people have been puzzled over the problem of the missing pages from the magazine **Nursing (Springhouse)** ?

The major bibliographies all include references to articles which cannot be found in editions of the magazine available in this country. There are two editions of this magazine, an American one

which is a complete edition, and an Overseas edition which lacks certain sections. The problem arises because, if the delivery address is outside North America the publishers will only register a subscription to the Overseas edition. This has always been frustrating, but it is becoming much more of a problem as nurses become more "literature conscious" and especially so when they have access to nursing information on CD-ROM databases such as MEDLINE and CINAHL.

Help is now at hand. Blackwells' Periodicals have negotiated a deal on my behalf with the publishers which they are able to make available to a limited number of other nursing libraries. For an extra £5.00 per year a select few of us can now subscribe to the complete American edition.

If you are interested in taking up this facility contact:

Mr Alan Laitt, Manager
Academic Library Service
Blackwells' Periodicals Division
PO Box 40
Hythe Bridge Street
Oxford OX1 2EU

Dr S E Nicholls, Assistant Librarian
(Nursing)
University of Sheffield Medical Library
Northern General Hospital
Sheffield S5 7AU

LETTERS

Project 2000 student issues

As Project 2000 progresses and more courses get underway, it's important that any problems or difficulties can be identified and resolved.

Recently, some second year Project 2000 students seemed to be experiencing difficulties academically, resulting in them losing their places on the Course. There may be several reasons for this but it would be helpful to hear from anyone with experience of this happening in their area.

Another difficulty that students report is the lack of knowledge they have regarding examination procedures (how to appeal, when to appeal, what they can appeal about). This is easily remedied and we would welcome information from colleagues about the information they give to students regarding examinations.

Lastly, some nursing students are reporting that they have been advised by teaching staff not to join the trade unions as they are covered by the NUS. This, of course, is not accurate and we would like all nursing students to have the opportunity to join the RCN. If you require further information on student membership of the RCN, please contact me at RCN HQ.

Roz Osborne
RCN Adviser
Education Department

NEWS

A CARIBBEAN NIGHTINGALE SINGS AGAIN

Wednesday, May 20th saw the opening of a major new exhibition highlighting the life and work of Mary Seacole, one of the 19th century's most remarkable women.

Mary Seacole (1805-1881) was a black Jamaican nurse and herbalist whose career spanned the world from the Carib-

bean to the hinterland of Asiatic Russia, a remarkable feat at that time.

Mary worked amidst the mud and gore of the Crimean War field hospitals at the same time as Florence Nightingale, but inevitably received only a fraction of the acclaim extended to "The Lady of the Lamp". Her story is one of considerable bravery, determination and personal achievement. Today, she is recognised as a great nurse and herbalist as well as one of the foremost women of her era. Such is her posthumous reputation that her life and works are now studied as part of the National Curriculum.

The exhibition was opened concurrently at the Florence Nightingale Museum in Lambeth and at the Black Cultural Archives in Brixton. It consists of high quality laminated colour photo-

graphic panels which are designed to be portable and are aimed at children in the 7-14 age range. Once the exhibition ends (September 1st 1992), the panels will be available for hire to schools and libraries as a travelling exhibition.

In support of the exhibition panels, a Curriculum resources pack is available to teachers. This contains a 30 page activity book and an audio tape based on Mary's autobiography - "The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands".

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