

BOOK REVIEW

Directions in Nursing Research:

Ten Years of Progress at London University, Volume 7

Edited by J. Wilson Barnett and S. Robinson, Scutari Press, London, 1989, 302 pp., Price 17.50, ISBN 1)871364)21)3.

This is the seventh volume in a series entitled "Developments in Nursing Research." The editors are J. Wilson Barnett and S. Robinson, with 35 authors for 29 chapters. A six-page index is included. The format consists of four major sections entitled "The delivery of care: Present practice and future directions (nine chapters), "The consumer perspective: Patients' and relatives' experiences and opinions" (five chapters), "Preparation for practice: Aspects of basic and post-basic education" (11 chapters) and "Career paths of nurses and midwives" (three chapters).

Each chapter is basically a presentation of one research study. The chapters and articles are average in length (approximately nine pages). Most present previously published data and a few derive from unpublished theses. The range of topics covered is impressive, if not a little overwhelming. I think an abstract or summary with each article would have made the reading easier.

The stated dual purpose was first, to produce a comprehensive record of an ongoing program of research at King's College, London University. The second aim was to construct a collection of studies that will be of interest to nurses, midwives and health visitors who work in practice, education and in management, as well as other health)care professionals and health)care researchers. The series purpose is to review research in specialist areas of nursing and to form a scholarly contribution to the literature.

This book does meet all of the intended purposes. In particular it provides an excellent view of the extensive work done at King's College over the last decade. This book is of interest from the historical point of view and the extensive bibliographies may be of use to some clinicians, educators and researchers.

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