

EDITORIAL

The last issue of Nursing Papers considered aspects of accountability and responsibility from a variety of perspectives.

It is important to recall that *accountability* is one of the criteria upon which the proposed program of accreditation of the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing rests. In determining the degree of accountability in a program, the accrediting team look for evidence of the extent to which professors in nursing teach students to respond to the individual patient or client.*

Accountability should be differentiated from the criterion of *relevance*. Relevance refers to the program in nursing being a response to the community served by the faculty of nursing and the university.

In considering *accountability*, the question is: Is the student's nursing a response to the individual person? In considering *relevance*, the question is: Is the program a response to its particular community?

Other criteria assessed in the proposed accreditation plan are *relatedness* and *uniqueness*. Relatedness refers to the parts of the program** fitting and working together toward the same ends; a sense of coherence, a wholeness. In seeking to achieve *relevance*, *accountability* and *relatedness*, *uniqueness* refers to developing and making use of resources*** to create a program which is particular to that faculty and its community.

F. Moyra Allen,
Editor,

* The patient or client may be an individual, a family, a group or a community.

** Parts of the program include goals, teaching of nursing, curriculum plans, faculty practice and research, and administration.

*** Resources include human — sociocultural, physical, financial, such as faculty expertise, healthy families in community, community values, socio-political power bases, opportunities for health action, consumer participation, etc.

Please note: The French version of this editorial will appear in the next issue (Winter, 1981).