

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF NURSING  
EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH  
AFRICA**

by **S.B. Williamson**

Available from the Publications Section, S.A. Nursing Association, Private Bag X105, Pretoria 0001, at R3,80 per copy.

This master's dissertation offers a comparison of the professional controls, of nursing education policies and programmes at all levels, the assessment of various qualifications and student status. It provides insight into the strengths of American nursing education which, through critical thought, research and literature, has been communicated throughout the world.

The research, which was undertaken between 1969 and 1971, is based on first hand information gleaned from an educational tour of the U.S.A. and from sources in the R.S.A. The first chapter presents the methodology, basic premises and the scope of the survey.

The control of nursing education in the two countries forms the basis of the second chapter. It is designed to provide an understanding of the American licensing and accreditation system, and of that unique body — the National League for Nursing. The professional associations are compared — the American Nurses' Association with its voluntary membership and the provision of special interest areas.

A short section is devoted to the differences in numerical strength in the two countries, revealing that

a relatively small percentage of American professional nurses were receiving their education at degree level.

An overview of the basic nursing education highlights the different programmes, their administration and requirements, student evaluation and lecturer/tutor preparation.

A comparison of the basic baccalaureate education contributes to an understanding of the American university system, with the first two years usually devoted to the liberal arts, with the vocational courses offered in the last two years. The system of course-credits contributes to a meaningful interpretation of the American nurses' curriculum.

Diploma nurse education is discussed, the theoretical and clinical requirements are compared. The pattern of separate basic courses (General, Midwifery and Psychiatric Nursing) is unfamiliar to the American nurse, who is trained as a nurse generalist.

The study includes an outline of the educational programme for the semi- and sub-professional groups as background to reciprocal enrolment or licensure in either country.

Education at advanced levels differs considerably. The South African post-basic diplomas have no parallel in U.S.A. where either higher degrees or short continuing education courses are favoured.

In the final perspectives, South African nursing education compares favourably with nursing education in the United States, but there is much to be learned from the American system which could enhance the educational status of the professional nurse in this country.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**REHABILITATION MEDICINE: THE  
MANAGEMENT OF PHYSICAL DISABILITIES**

by **P.J.R. NICHOLS**

(Butterworths and Co. (S.A.) (Pty) Ltd,  
P.O. Box 792, Durban, 4000

This is a highly recommendable book for all those employed in the health team: The quotation on the frontispiece . . . that which is everybody's business is nobody's business' implies that this is what rehabilitation has become.

The contents are composed of fourteen chapters which cover the organisation of rehabilitation services, physiotherapy and occupational therapy; the remaining chapters deal with the management of what may be called the 'moderately disabled', such as the amputee, the arthritic, chronic bronchitic.

In the preface, the authors express the hope that this book will convince the reader of the need for integration between hospital and community services if rehabilitation is to become a reality. In the teaching of preventive and promotive health care, rehabilitation constitutes the tertiary phase and it is often this phase which is sadly neglected in practice.

P.A.P.

**HISTORY AND TRENDS OF PROFESSIONAL  
NURSING**

by **Grace L. Deloughery (8th Ed.)**  
(C.V. Mosby Co.,)

**In the preface Dr. Deloughery states:**

"This edition is a revision of material prepared by Griffin and Griffin and published previously. A consolidation is undertaken . . . to emphasize those portions of history that have the greatest impact on the modern nurse and to permit updating of the history and more discussion of trends that project from the historical material".

This edition consists of four units. Unit one concerns the early history of nursing. American nursing history is discussed in Unit two, contemporary nursing in Unit three and legal aspects in unit four.

Postbasic and postgraduate nursing students will find Unit three an especially valuable source of information concerning aspects such as contemporary American nursing leaders; trends in American nursing education; the International Council of Nurses; development in Canada, Israel and Australia, while Unit four, which explains the American approach to certain legal aspects e.g. contracts, criminal law, human experimentation, etc. will provide interesting and valuable reading to those students who know the South African approach to legal aspects important in nursing.

C.F. VAN NIEKERK