

BOOK REVIEWS

WOMEN'S HEALTH - MIDWIFERY AND GYNAECOLOGICAL NURSING

(Using Nursing Model Series) Ed. Christine Webb

London: Edward Arnold, 1988, 2nd Impression

ISBN 0-340- 36998-1 182 pp. Approx. Retail Price: R81.

This is the first in this series of books on using nursing models and is edited by Christine Webb whose understanding and analytic view of theories, models and conceptual frameworks as well as the nature of science is clearly presented in her excellent introductory chapter. This is a useful book in that individual authors look at the practicalities of various nursing models ensuring that the clinical approach is that of nursing and not that related to a medical model.

In this work various nurses describe their attempts to use different models of their choice in aspects of midwifery and of gynaecological nursing including nursing a person with carcinoma of the cervix. These authors have drawn up specific nursing care plans in particular situations and have assessed the practicality and usefulness of the models. Those used include Orem's self-care model, Henderson's activities of daily living model, Roper's activities of living model, Roy's adaptation model and King's human interactionist approach as patient and nurse pursue goal attainment.

In drawing up usable nursing care plans, the authors have often had to modify these models. These plans have helped the authors detect important problems which might otherwise have been missed such as in the usual obstetric assessment at antenatal clinic. (Methven, p.36). Although the plans, in some author's and in the reviewer's opinion, seem, at times, long and unwieldy, they serve as a framework for nursing. Furthermore, comprehensive patient records according to Webb, assist in clinical teaching.

Webb (p.175) in her concluding postscript acknowledges that models have "not been empirically tested" because of the impossibility of testing them in their present form as they lack sufficient detail to make the models operational. However, this book challenges the readers to think about the application of models to nursing care in midwifery and gynaecological nursing in a logical and scientific way and will be of benefit to postbasic educators and students in these fields. The first and last chapters should be examined by anyone analysing nursing models and associated theoretical issues.

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CARING FOR CHILDREN - TOWARDS PARTNERSHIP WITH FAMILIES

(Using Nursing Model Series) Ed. Alison White

London: Edward Arnold. 1991 ISBN 0-340- 51840-5

140 pp. Approx. Retail Price: R68.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this latest in the series of Models in Nursing texts and found it helpful and challenging particularly as families in Southern Africa often are not yet incorporated into child health care in either health institutions or in the community. It also is of value to read about models, other than nursing models, being applied to nursing care such as Bandura's theory of self-efficacy, Becker's health belief model and Cawley's levels of psychotherapy. It was disappointing that there was so little detail regarding the last as the information given appears insufficient to be of use to the reader. Other models used to underpin nursing care include those of Roy, Orem, Roper and King.

The emphasis in this book is more on health maintenance and chronic conditions than on acute problems. It involves both institutional and community child care. It would enhance the book to have a short review of the latest sociological thinking on the family, perhaps in the introductory chapter. It might also be useful to enlarge the child's world to beyond the family and to describe aspects such as child-to-child teaching in regard to the section on Aids and asthma support groups for the child with asthma.

However, this book will be of use to post-basic nurse educators and students in paediatrics, child care, community health, primary health care as well as paediatric psychiatry.

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