VOORWOORD

Die top verpleegkundiges van die Departement van Gesondheid en Welsyn, SA Geneeskundige Dienste en provinsiale departemente van hospitaaldienste asook die hoofde van departemente van verpleegkunde aan universiteite vergader jaarliks onder die vaandel van die SA Verpleegstersvereniging. Hierdie Forum van die SA Verpleegstersvereniging, soos dit bekendstaan, het vroeër vanjaar die implikasies van die nuwe Grondwet van Suid-Afrika vir die verpleegberoep in oënskou geneem.

Twee van die referate wat gelewer is by die vergadering word in hierdie uitgawe gepubliseer sodat alle verpleegkundiges kan sien hoe die staatkundige ontwikkelings hulle gaan raak.

'n Mens staan byna verskrik voor al die veranderinge wat oor die volgende dekade of wat gaan ontplooi. Daar is die nuwe Grondwet met sy implikasies, die gesondheidsdiensfasiliteiteplan wat 'n klemverskuiwing in gesondheidsdienslewering in Suid-Afrika sal meebring en die bevolkingsontwikkelingsprogram wat onlangs aangekondig is. Om met hierdie ontwikkelings tred te hou is daar ook die vernuwings op die gebied van verpleegonderwys.

Bogenoemde sal geen verpleegkundige in die land onaangeraak laat nie. Die vraag is of ons die teuels gaan opneem en as sterk leiers en besluitnemers na vore gaan tree. Of gaan ons meegesleur word en toelaat dat andere aan ons voorskryf en daarna kla oor 'n gebrek aan erkenning en status.

Verpleegkundiges se houding teenoor die ontwikkelings en die rol wat hulle bereid is om daarin te vertolk gaan deurslaggewend wees vir die toekoms. In dié verband is daar drie verdere artikels in hierdie uitgawe wat elkeen behoort te lees en haarself daarvolgens te evalueer. Die artikels is dié oor die generasiegaping in verpleging, die implikasies van die ontwikkelings in verpleging vir verpleegonderwys en die teoretiese perspektief op verpleegleierskap.

FOREWORD

The top nurses of the Department of Health and Welfare, SA Medical Services and the provincial departments of hospital services as well as the heads of the university departments of nursing meet annually under the auspices of the SA Nursing Association.

Earlier this year this Forum of the SA Nursing Association, as it is known, considered the implications of the new Constitution of South Africa for the nursing profession.

Two of the papers presented at the meeting are published in this issue in order for all nurses to see how the political developments will affect them.

One stands almost in awe before all the changes which must take shape over the next decade. There is the new Constitution with all its implications, the health services facilities plan which will bring about a shift in emphasis in the delivery of health services and the population development program which was announced recently. To keep pace with these developments there is also the renewal in the field of nursing education.

The above will affect every single nurse in the country. The question is whether we are willing to take up the reins and be counted as strong leaders and decision makers. Or will we be carried along and allow others to dictate to us and thereafter complain about a lack of recognition and status.

Nurses' attitudes towards the developments and the role they are prepared to play therin will be vital to the future. In this regard there are a further three articles in this issue that everyone should read and evaluate herself against. The articles are those on the generation gap in nursing, the trends in nursing and their implications for nursing education and the theoretical perspective on nursing leadership.