

Book Review

Edited by Dean Whitehead

Professional Nursing Practice: Concepts and Perspectives – 5th Edition by Kathleen Koernig Blais, Janice Hayes, Barbara Kozier and Glenora Erb. 2006, Pearson-Prentice Hall, Princeton, NJ, USA. ISBN 0131188194. 460 pp.

This book is intended for registered nurses engaged in or intending to embark upon a nursing degree, as well as for nurses involved in programmes aimed at 'transition'. It is the fifth edition of a popular book which focuses on the role of the professional nurse in a changing environment. This updated edition includes previously unavailable material related to nursing in a spiritually diverse world and content on bioterrorism – and they provide much food for thought. Although the demographic data relates mainly to North American registered nurses, the comparison with other developed countries is similar. The language and terms used are, in the main, internationally recognised.

The book is organised into five units – plus an introduction. The journey in

Chapter 1 draws on literature relevant to global settings in the western world e.g. Benner's work on developing excellence in clinical nursing practice and Spencer and Adam's model of transition. Chapter 2 presents theories of socialisation and role stress which also have widespread applicability. The chapter on historical foundations of professional nursing will be seen by many as reflecting a view more oriented to the United States, as will the detail of the chapter on legal issues. Nevertheless, the principles in these chapters, as well as the ethics chapter, are relevant throughout nursing. The chapter on theoretical foundations presents a useful summary of all the key models of nursing.

There are further chapters on the nurse as a research consumer, teacher, learner, political advocate, manager and leader. These work better than other chapters on communication and processes of change and group work, which are well covered by other literature. It is useful to see a chapter on healthcare

economics in a book of this kind – especially as it also seeks to address the international context. The book has useful pedagogy in the form of critical thinking exercises, reflections on practice and improved website information, as well as retaining well reported aspects from previous editions such as research and bookshelf boxes and 'practising nurse interviews', in home and community nursing.

Overall this is a well presented and easy to follow book to dip into, rather than read from cover to cover. It should appeal to nursing students and registered nurses alike.

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