

Promoting Health: Global Perspectives

by Angela Scriven and Sebastian Garman.

Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, Hampshire, UK, 2005,
297 pages, £17.99, ISBN 1 4039 2137 7.

Many healthcare professionals view their health promotion practice as it relates to their immediate clinical environment. This book is a timely reminder, especially after more recent events like the 26 December 2004 tsunami, that healthcare provision does not sit exclusively within a national or localized framework and that health promotion is the medium by which we need to contextualize global healthcare provision.

This edited text is commissioned by one of the leading academic publishing houses and offers contributions by many of the leading names in theoretical and practical health promotion reform. The contributors are internationally diverse in their scope and location. The editors set the scene for each of the book parts as well as contributing chapters in the book. The contributions are appropriately succinct and relate to each other in a flowing and logical manner. It is well written and can be read as a whole or 'dipped into' as needed. Most of the world's major regions are represented, with overviews and reviews of health promotion-related activity in each of them. This helps to provide a useful insight into the level of health inequity *between* world regions and, importantly, also gives a perspective of health disparity *within* regions. Strategic examples are offered throughout at macro- and micro-political/economic level.

This is an important and valuable text that comes at a time of increasing globalization in health care and particularly at a time of heightened global health policy awareness. It is therefore increasingly important that healthcare professionals begin to 'think outside the box' of their immediate practice setting and learn to embrace concepts of global healthcare promotion provision. This text is a good place to begin that journey.

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Care of the Difficult Patient: A Nurse's Guide

by Peter J. Manos and Joan Braun.

Routledge, London, UK, 2005, 152 pages, £20.99,
ISBN 0415358248.

Caring for difficult patients requires personal and professional stamina. This book offers help for the novice and experienced nurse at the bedside.

This small manual relates information with a personal touch. Excellent examples, stories and analogies are used throughout the text. Tables and figures add to the content. In addition, I especially appreciated the humour interspersed throughout.

This well-organized manual allows the reader to scan for topics of interest without having to read each chapter. Chapter one outlines how to do a mental health assessment in practical terms. Helpful questions for the nurse are intermingled throughout the chapter. Chapters 2–4 give information about specific medical problems which lead to altered mental states in patients. I recommend using the tables in the substance abuse and delirium chapters as handy pocket guides. Other chapters offer information on topics such as how to set limits with patients, how to recognize and handle manipulative behaviour, and how to communicate with families, peers and doctors.

Although written for nurses, this is an excellent resource for other healthcare professionals. This guidebook should be placed on medical wards, psychiatric units and other acute care areas. It would be an excellent adjunct textbook for nursing students. As you can tell, I thoroughly enjoyed this book!

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