BOOK REVIEWS

COORDINATING COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY
Joan Guinn, RN, MS; Joan Segal, MA; Christine Johnson, RN, MS; and Helen Raisz, MA, editors, Springer Publishing Company, 200 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10003, 117 pages, 1984, price not available, ISBN 0-8261-3300-2

The editors and contributing authors to this book have varied backgrounds ranging from an educational background in gerontological nursing, social work, and hospital business administration, to executive director, fiscal officer, and research associate of Triage, Inc.

This book describes a triage project in Connecticut, which is one of several federalally funded research and demonstration programs, designed to develop a better way to provide health care to the older American. There are seven chapters that basically describe the development and implementation of the triage model of a client-centered system of community long-term care. It includes a description of the coordination process, the reimbursement process, the assessment process to develop a comprehensive data base from a holistic point of view, and an evaluation process to determine if the appropriate service is delivered at the appropriate time in terms of quantity and quality. The authors conclude by suggesting administrative and legislative means for duplicating this service in other areas of the country.

This book may be used as a resource book for anyone interested in a community program for the health care of the elderly. It provides a method for choosing among a wide range of services for assiting the elderly to achieve functional dependency as well as those services which will enhance a better quality of life.

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CHRONIC ILLNESS AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE
Anselm L. Strauss and Juliet Corbin, Shizuko Fagerhaugh, Barney Glaser, David Maines, Barbara Suszek, and Carolyn Wiener, second edition, The C.V. Mosby Company, 11830 Westline Industrial Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146, 225 pages, 1984, $16.95, ISBN 0-8016-4825-4.

Strauss is a professor of sociology and a faculty member at the School of Nursing, University of California, San Francisco. Strauss and Glaser developed an interactional model to analyze the problems of living with a chronic illness. They are as follows:
1) Prevention of medical crisis
2) The control of symptoms
3) Carrying out of prescribed regimens
4) Living with social isolation
5) Adjustment to changes in the course of the disease
6) Attempts at normalizing
7) Funding to pay for treatments
8) Confronting psychological, marital, and family problems.

In this second edition, the approach is to implement the interaction model. The focus is on the social and psychological aspects (not medical) of living with a chronic illness and how the quality of life is affected. This second edition is expanded with chapters on patients’ experiences while hospitalized, because rehospitalizations are frequent.

The book is divided into three parts, and each part has several chapters. Part 1 introduces the issue of chronic illness. Excellent tables are used to show the prevalence of chronic disease. Part 2 discusses the problems of daily living. Case examples are used to illustrate the problems. Part 3 discusses the issues associated with hospitalization. New material has been added in this second edition on how personnel might obtain the kinds of biographical information needed from chronically ill patients.

The case approach of the book is an excellent way of suggesting appropriate intervention methods. Its application to clinical practice make it valuable to rehabilitation nurses working with both inpatients and patients in the community.

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BRAIN TUMORS IN CHILDREN
Michael E. Cohen and Patricia Kessler Duffner, Raven Press, 1140 Ave. of Americas, New York, NY 10036, 378 pages, 1984, price not available, ISBN: 0-89004-935-1

This complete volume is an excellent reference for nurses providing care for children with brain tumors. The first five chapters reflect modern diagnostic techniques and three principles of therapy: radiation, surgery, and chemotherapeutic agents, coupled with principles of epidemiology, are authored by experts in the respective areas.

The remaining chapters speak specifically and in depth to the most common intracranial tumors of childhood, concluding with extra-neural metastases and other complications.

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THE CLINICAL PRACTICE OF MEDICAL-SURGICAL NURSING
Marjorie Beyers and Susan Dudas, second edition, Little, Brown, and Company, 1491 pages, 1984, price not available, ISBN 0-316-09266-5.

The contributing authors are affiliated with a variety of educational and health care institutions in several states.

The broad aims of the book are described in the preface. The content is organized in a logical sequence and reflects current nursing practices. The subject matter is consistent with the framework of the book. The subject matter, based on the systems approach and nursing process, is truly making it an excellent medical-surgical textbook. The chapters are independent, but compliment each other, contributing to a comprehensive book.

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Some strong features of this book include: the organizational format that uses the systems approach and the nursing process; numerous cross references; content outline at the beginning of each chapter; glossary of terms for each chapter; figures, tables, and pictures that are instructional and facilitate comprehension of related content; and many other features. The size of the book is consistent with most medical-surgical nursing textbooks.

The captions are sharp and easy to identify. The varied case print allows for easy location of major chapter topics. The print is clear and easy to read. The figures, tables, and illustrations are clear and detailed.

This book, if consistent with the nursing curriculum, could benefit basic nursing students as a medical-surgical textbook. Practicing medical-surgical nurses could also benefit from it as a reference book.

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RN’S SURVIVAL SOURCE BOOK: COPING WITH STRESS
Gloria F. Donnelly, Medical Economics Company, Inc., Oradell, NJ 07649, 216 pages, 1983, $11.95, ISBN 0-87489-299-6.

Donnelly, who is director of the department of nursing at La Salle College in Philadelphia, has written this sourcebook as a guide for the nurse to the recognition and management of stress. The book is a practical book, written in a workbook and case situation format. Self-assessment exercises are included for the reader to complete. These exercises show how the reader responds to typical stressful situations. The author then offers suggestions to teach the reader to change or improve stress-producing responses. Donnelly has based these exercises on real situations recounted by nurses who have attended her stress-management and assertiveness workshops.

The book is divided into seven chapters. Each chapter includes exercises and suggestions. Chapter 1 begins with identification of stressors and discusses Seyle’s stress theory. Chapter 2 dis-