Issues in Nursing Research

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Papers from the 22nd annual conference of the Royal College of Nursing Research Society

*Edited on behalf of the Royal College of Nursing Research
Society by*

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Lisbeth Hockey

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Foreword

LISBETH HOCKEY

As Honorary Chairman of the Research Society of the Royal College of Nursing it is my pleasure and privilege to introduce this unique publication which consists of papers from the 22nd Annual Conference. Although the Research Society holds annual conferences, this is the first time that the papers have been made available in book form for general sale. The editors have undertaken a difficult task in editing the proceedings and their hard work is gratefully acknowledged. The book covers a wide spectrum of nursing research with contributions from experienced as well as novice researchers. There can hardly be a branch or specialty in nursing which is not represented and this growth of research activity is heartening. Nurse historians, educators, administrators and planners, as well as practitioners, will find papers of relevance to their field of activity; moreover, most professional specialties such as midwifery, health visiting, and geriatric, general, mental handicap and psychiatric nursing, are included. The research methodologists will not be disappointed as most authors have given the level of emphasis to the design, method and analysis of their study which is appropriate for a research conference. Indeed, several papers have their main focus on methodological issues.

Unfortunately, it was impossible to record the discussions which followed each paper; they formed a most important and valuable part of the conference. It was equally impossible to reproduce in cold print the conference atmosphere, the informal debates, the excitement and the *esprit de corps* of a group of people who had come from many parts of the UK as well as several countries on both sides of the Atlantic in order to engage in scientific debate relating to the critical analysis of our profession.

This book bears witness to an increasing professional maturity and augurs well for the future. I hope it will find an eager and enthusiastic readership. It is the coming together of research and nursing which must be our goal.

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