A Personal Approach to Patient Care

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EDUCATION

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To the patients of the reader

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Foreword

The diversity of nursing and the increasing number of specialist groups it contains often makes for confusion in observers, its own practitioners and in aspiring members of the profession. This book sets out a concept of basic care which underpins the wide variety of nursing activities. It provides a critical framework which enables the nurse to adapt this care to meet specific individual needs. In so doing, it provides not only a setting within which learner and practitioner alike can develop and extend their professional practice, but it also demonstrates the underlying principles of care which are the keystone to the profession of nursing.

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Preface

We have great pleasure in introducing this nursing text which we hope will be useful and give opportunity for discussion to all nurses and nursing students. We have divided the book into three major sections. The first section gives guidance as to how people differ in response to growth, development, ageing, temperament, social and cultural influences and individual mental and physical capacity. We identify four major categories of needs and give examples of how these may be satisfied.

In the second section we have used Virginia Henderson's components of basic nursing and have looked at functions that require assistance. Each of the five chapters gives references for revision of normal physiology, then consideration is given to the social and psychological factors affecting the chosen living activity. This is followed by a patient history with guidance for assessing the patient's needs, choosing priorities in nursing care and setting short- and long-term goals. At the end of each chapter is a selection of further medical and surgical conditions which may affect living activities, with further reading of selected aspects of pharmacology, physiotherapy and nursing procedures.

The third section considers the multiple roles of the nurse and asks some pertinent questions which could be used for self-evaluation and further activity.

Throughout the complete text the emphasis is on encouraging the reader to participate and in so doing develop a systematic way of assessing, planning and evaluating care.

1987

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B. S.

A NOTE TO THE READER

We would like to emphasise that each patient regardless of age, temperament or social/cultural background is first and foremost an individual. There can be no substitute for reaching an understanding of the individual patient. This book can only be a very general guide which offers some clues to help you towards that understanding.

A comment from a patient:

'What kind of people do they think we are?'

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