PRACTICAL SOCIAL WORK

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Social work is at an important stage in its development. All professions must be responsive to changing social and economic conditions if they are to meet the needs of those they serve. This series focuses on sound practice and the specific contributions which social workers can make to the well-being of our society.

The British Association of Social Workers has always been conscious of its role in setting guidelines for practice and in seeking to raise professional standards. The conception of the Practical Social Work series arose from a survey of BASW members to discover where they, the practitioners in social work, felt there was the most need for new literature. The response was overwhelming and enthusiastic, and the result is a carefully planned, coherent series of books. The emphasis is firmly on practice, set in a theoretical framework. The books will inform, stimulate and promote discussion, thus adding to the further development of skills and high professional standards. All the authors are practitioners and teachers of social work representing a wide variety of experience.

JO CAMPLING

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To all social workers who want to work with old people:
lang may yer lums reek.

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Preface

This book is a second edition and thus incorporates six more years of experience of working with older people. It is still no more than an attempt to share what I have learned over the years. Friends, colleagues, students and relatives will recognise themselves, their friends, colleagues, relatives and clients. I am grateful to them all. I am especially grateful to a small group of friends and colleagues who helped with this second edition and, in particular, my patient and skilful colleague, Evelyn Gibb, who did all the wordprocessing and prepared the text for publication.

Age Concern Scotland

MARY MARSHALL

Note: While the cases and examples referred to in this book are real, all the names used are fictitious and in some instances details have been altered.