

For the general practitioner in the UK there are other more attractive, concise and relevant texts available.

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**PRIMARY HEALTH CARE
Bridging the Gap between
Theory and Practice**

Nigel C. H. Stott

Springer-Verlag,
Berlin, Heidelberg, New York and
Tokyo (1983)

113 pages. Price DM40 (approx.
£10.50) (paperback)

This paperback, aimed at all who are interested and involved in primary health care—whether undergraduates, nurses or doctors—propounds a philosophy of care which goes far beyond the traditional 'fire brigade' approach of crisis-intervention medicine. The author starts with the heart of all clinical medicine—the consultation—and stresses the

importance of communication skills and behaviours in managing the presentations familiar in general practice. He then proposes a model, not necessarily to be followed through in every contact with patients, which takes account of reasons for consulting, of other problems not offered, and of opportunistic health promotion. Each of these themes is expanded in subsequent chapters, written against a background of the author's experience and wide-ranging studies on health topics from different cultures. In the chapter on disease prevention and health promotion possibilities and opportunities for assimilating this dimension of care into everyday practice are examined; nutrition, prevention of destructive behaviour (of which accident prevention is a subset) and developmental scanning (*sic*) are singled out for special treatment. The final chapter looks at trends in general practice—towards greater operational efficiency, less prescribing, more teamwork, more anticipatory care, the goals of the Alma-Ata Declaration—and at the stresses all these forces impose on general practice as we know it today.

This remarkable, comprehensive and readable book is likely to have a considerable impact on all who read it. It is full of the author's idealism, which this reviewer found stimulating while not fully sharing his views on the primary-secondary-tertiary prevention concept, or the commercial promotion of glucose-electrolyte solutions for diarrhoea in infants. The diagrams, figures and tables, with the possible exception of that on viscosity of foods, are helpful and to the point. The bibliography is extensive and useful, and a short index is included.

This is a book to be read widely, especially by those concerned with undergraduate medical education. Young entrants to general practice will be stimulated, some of their seniors may be irritated, but most clinicians will find something of value, as they examine their approach to the care of their patients against the challenges posed by this book.

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**BOOKS
RECEIVED**

RESEARCH IN PRACTICE TEACHING. Papers and Projects from a Workshop, (CCETSW Study 6), CCERSW, London, 1983. 128 pages. Price £5.50 (paperback).

CURRENT MEDICAL TREATMENT, C. W. Havard (editor), Baillière Tindall, Eastbourne, 1983. 562 pages. Price £19.50.

THE G-JO INSTITUTE MANUAL OF MEDICINAL HERBS, Michael Blate, Routledge and Kegan Paul, Henley-on-Thames, 1983. 128 pages. Price £3.95 (paperback).

HOW TO HEAL YOURSELF USING HAND ACUPRESSURE, Michael Blate, Routledge and Kegan Paul, Henley-on-Thames, 1983. 194 pages. Price £3.95 (paperback).

HOW TO HEAL YOURSELF USING FOOT ACUPRESSURE, Michael Blate, Routledge and Kegan Paul, Henley-on-Thames, 1983. 178 pages. Price £3.95 (paperback).

ACTIVITY, HEALTH AND FITNESS IN OLD AGE, Jean A. Macheath, Croom Helm, London, 1983. 179 pages. Price £12.95.

MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS, From Student to Clinician, Janet Gale and Philip Marsden, Oxford University Press, 1983. 218 pages. Price £17.50.

ABC OF COMPUTING. Articles from the BMJ, A. J. Asbury, British Medical Journal, London, 1983. 69 pages. Price £5.75 (paperback).

PREPARATION FOR MRCP PART II, Paul Siklos and Stephen Olczak, MTP Press, Lancaster, 1983. 186 pages. Price £9.95.

THE REAL MENSTRUAL CYCLE, Doreen Asso, Wiley, Chichester, 1983. 214 pages. Price £6.95 (paperback).

PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY AND SEXUAL DISORDERS, David Wheatley (editor), Oxford University Press, 1983. 178 pages. Price £17.50.

SIX WEEKS TO A HEALTHY BACK, Alexander Melleby, Sheldon Press, London, 1983. 102 pages. Price £3.95 (paperback), £6.95 (cased).

COMMUNITY HEALTH, PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND SOCIAL SERVICES. J. B. Meredith Davies, Baillière Tindall, London, 1983. 485 pages. Price £7.95 (paperback).

A MANUAL OF ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY RESUSCITATION, Colin Robertson and Keith Little (editors), Wiley, Chichester, 1983. 181 pages. Price £3.95 (paperback).

ALL ABOUT TWINS. A Handbook for Parents, Gillian Leigh, Routledge and Kegan Paul, Henley-on-Thames, 1983. 253 pages. Price £4.95 (paperback).

COOKING NATURALLY FOR PLEASURE AND HEALTH, Michael Blate and Gail C. Watson, Routledge and Kegan Paul, Henley-on-Thames, 1983. 241 pages. Price £4.95 (paperback).

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD, Normal and Abnormal, Ronald S. Illingworth, Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1983. 299 pages. Price £11.00 (paperback).

THE ABC OF EATING. Coping with Anorexia, Bulimia and Compulsive Eating, Joy Melville, Sheldon Press, London, 1983. 106 pages. Price £2.50 (paperback), £6.95 (cased).

NEW DRUGS. Articles from The British Medical Journal, British Medical Journal, London, 1983. 215 pages. Price £6.00 (paperback).

DYING AT HOME, Harriet Copperman, Wiley, Chichester, 1983. 158 pages. Price £3.95 (paperback).

A GUIDE TO THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT 1983, Robert Buglass, Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1983. 152 pages. Price £9.95 (paperback).

HEALTH SURVEYS in Practice and in Potential. A Critical Review of their Scope and Methods, Ann Cartwright, Oxford University Press, 1983. 277 pages. Price £8.50.

GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASE, C. J. C. Roberts (editor), Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1983. 236 pages. Price £9.00 (paperback).

RHEUMATIC DISEASE, Hilary A. Capell, T. J. Daymond and W. Carson Dick, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1983. 196 pages. Price £9.00 (paperback).

HIP REPLACEMENT: the Facts, Kevin Harding, Oxford University Press, 1983. 115 pages. Price £6.95.

MEFANAMIC ACID. Some Practical Aspects of the Treatment of Rheumatic Disease, The Royal Society of Medicine, Oxford University Press, 1983. 45 pages. Price £5.00 (paperback).

BEWARE ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE. The Christian View, Roy Livesey, Bury House Christian Books, Kidderminster, 1983. 81 pages. Price £1.50 (paperback).