

depended on initiatives from a few general practitioners. In Brighton the report focused more on the work of the voluntary sector and highlighted initial problems owing to inexperienced staff in statutory agencies and the difficulties of deciding which of the various groups involved was responsible for which aspects of AIDS care.

The report from Oxfordshire, one of the areas with a low prevalence of AIDS, described the role of an AIDS liaison officer and primary care facilitator, whereas in Bradford an AIDS control forum had been established with an emphasis on education and ethnic minorities. In north west Hertfordshire the district AIDS policy emphasized prevention and health promotion; the report from this area included a discussion of the problems of AIDS and mental handicap.

Northern Ireland was another area of low prevalence and the organizational response to health promotion was facilitated by good communication between the various groups involved. The same emphasis on health promotion was evident from the report from Wales where the Welsh AIDS campaign was launched in 1986. This was claimed to be successful, although more in terms of good relationships between agencies rather than from any evidence of outcome measures.

We need to understand more about the process of organizational change in order to improve the delivery of services and this book is a valuable account of varying local responses to the challenge of AIDS. The scale of the problem is indicated by the following facts: the first UK AIDS case was identified in 1981, six years later there were 1000 cases, and in 1988 1% of all men aged between 15 and 45 years in Edinburgh were positive for the human immunodeficiency virus.

DAVID R HANNAY

Professor of general practice, University of Sheffield

TEAMWORK IN PALLIATIVE CARE

*Robin Hull, Mary Ellis and Vicki Sargent
Radcliffe Medical Press, Oxford (1989)
160 pages. Price £8.95*

This book is one of a pair released simultaneously, the other being *Palliative care* written by a recently retired hospice medical director. The authors of *Teamwork in palliative care* are equally well qualified — an experienced academic general practitioner and two senior nurse colleagues all working in the same hospice, a trio uniquely placed to write on teamwork, that much aspired to but seldom achieved ideal.

The challenges are obvious to all in the field. How do you marry the many skills of so many cooperating disciplines? How do you support each other at times of professional stress or loneliness? In what specific ways can nurses assist doctors in the diagnosis of pain and confusion? In what specific ways can doctors help nurses to use their many professional skills to the full? How can professionals in palliative care cope with frequently changing and overlapping roles?

Readers will find much useful information in the chapters on palliation (as indeed they will in the sister volume) and much of interest in the chapters on complementary medicine, the acquired immune deficiency syndrome and hospices. All are written, as one would expect, with sensitivity and keen insight. Only at the end of the book is there a chapter devoted to teamwork, again challenging and thought provoking but less helpful than I had hoped it would be.

Teamwork is so much more than each member of each profession involved in a patient's care being knowledgeable and doing the job to the best of their ability. This book may well help them to do that, but an opportunity has been missed to advance our insights into genuine teamwork.

DEREK DOYLE

Medical director, St Columba's Hospice, Edinburgh



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