Advanced Practice Palliative Nursing

The book provides a detailed account of the complexities of palliative care nursing, while also developing ideas for practice improvement.

Case studies illustrate how the skills and knowledge of palliative care nurses can be used in everyday practice.

These case studies tend to have positive outcomes, however the reality is that sometimes the system lets patients down or we get things wrong – it would have been useful to have included examples of such cases for comparison.

The book highlights the evolving role of the specialist palliative care nurse across various settings, for example in intensive care units. The importance of continuous learning is also emphasised.

This is a well-structured book and readers will find it easy to identify relevant sections. Chapters are clearly defined and there is a concise overview.

As it is an American text, some content will not readily apply to practice in the UK. However, this does not detract from the merit of the book, which brings together all aspects of advanced palliative care nursing in one text.

It is a refreshing addition to palliative care literature and I would recommend it for the personal library of any palliative care nurse.

It would be useful for palliative care nurses, those completing modules in palliative care and those wanting an insight into the role.


Reviewed by Kelly Critcher, clinical nurse specialist, specialist palliative care team, London North West Healthcare NHS Trust

Unknown Warriors – The Letters of Kate Luard, Nursing Sister in France 1914-1918

Katherine Evelyn Luard was among a select number of trained professional nurses who worked in casualty clearing stations and on hospital trains during the first world war.

This book will be of interest to anyone who wants to learn about life during war, but it is particularly relevant for nurses interested in nursing at the front during a major war.

Presented in letter format, it provides a glimpse into the world of the 20th century military field hospital, where patients struggled with pain and trauma and nurses fought to save lives and preserve emotional integrity.

This text is a vivid and honest portrait of war’s wounded that reveals the true significance of nurses’ front-line contributions.


Reviewed by Margot Lindsay, division of psychiatry, University College London