The revalidation process requires nurses to prepare five written reflective accounts and so it is important that they understand what reflection can involve.

Intended to support professional practitioners for whom reflection is integral to practice, this useful book includes case studies from occupational therapy, social work and all fields of nursing to demonstrate that reflection can be part of practice in many different professions.

It also describes a number of theories about individual learning styles that readers can apply to themselves.

While offering much that will be of interest to practitioners, the book could also be useful for clinical supervisors and mentors. It would be a worthwhile purchase for many practitioners in a variety of careers and a useful addition to any healthcare library.

Reviewed by Isabel Dosser, lecturer, programme leader and teaching fellow at Edinburgh Napier University

This fascinating publication describes in depth the roles and responsibilities of forensic nurses in the US, who are often involved in the scientific investigation of violent and sexual crimes. However, these duties differ from those of nurses in forensic or secure settings in the UK, who work primarily with offenders who have mental health problems and who are in hospital, prison or police cells.

Nevertheless, there are areas of overlap that may be of limited interest to UK-based forensic nurses. There is a discussion about theories of crime, for example, and a chapter on forensic mental health nursing that describes competency, sanity and the impact of the ‘McNaughton rules’.

Other chapters cover the neurobiology of trauma, assessments of wounds, murder, assault and battery. Graphic images of wounds and other physical trauma highlight the points made in the text.

The book is well written and thoughtfully laid out, and would be useful to its target readership. I found it a fascinating read, but more from a point of professional curiosity than usefulness.

Reviewed by David King, clinical nurse specialist in forensic mental health at the Humber Centre for Forensic Psychiatry

Empowering nurses and other healthcare professionals to work to their full potential benefits the healthcare system of any country. However, there have long been barriers to such empowerment.

Several reports, including one from the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health (APPG), acknowledge the global effects of investing in the health workforce and especially in nurses.

Triple impact

The ‘triple impact’ of investing in nursing described in the APPG’s most recent report is improved gender equality, the offer of professional employment and community leadership to women, and a strengthened economy. But the message and evidence does not always reach the people who make the relevant decisions, especially decisions about the allocation of resources.

The report acknowledges that the nursing profession needs more support from politicians and policy makers, in part to ensure that experienced nurse leaders can influence the improvement of services.

Nursing summit

The APPG report also calls for a global nursing summit that involves leaders from outside nursing, as well as country-specific plans to invest in training and developing the nursing workforce, including in the UK. These are not new messages, but the report indicates that political support for them is growing.

A recent United Nations High Level Commission’s report co-chaired by two presidents from France and South Africa, for example, came to similar conclusions.

We now need to turn the findings of these reports into collective action.

References
