From puberty to parenthood

This is the second edition of a comprehensive textbook on women's sexual health intended primarily for nurses and other health professionals. Women's Sexual Health covers the spectrum of reproductive life events, from puberty to parenthood.

The book is divided into three sections: Women Today explores sexuality and personal issues for women at different stages in their lives, and how these can be influenced by culture and other factors. The second section on fertility covers childbearing – sexuality during and after pregnancy, contraception, unplanned pregnancy and the management of sub-fertility. The final section concentrates on specific women's health problems, including breast screening, breast disorders and cervical screening.

Most chapters contain learning objectives, boxed highlights, key concepts, references and further reading. It was particularly pleasing to see the incorporation of research findings throughout the text, and the reference lists at the end of each chapter are comprehensive. I would highly recommend it to all those involved in this area.

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Communication and Consultation

Kate Allen
The Policy Press
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This report concerns a project that explored how staff in ten UK care settings encouraged people with dementia to express their views and preferences. It is aimed at policy makers, planners, managers and direct care staff. The participants in this project included staff of a day hospital, a nursing home and a long-term care ward.

The report stresses the importance of communication in good dementia care. The author maintains that communication is a skilful task because dementia affects people in different ways. The researcher describes how she chose an inclusive consultative process to communicate with dementia sufferers, their relatives, staff and managers.

Different sections offer helpful and practical ideas on communication aids, how informed consent can be obtained and the positive outcomes of good communication.

By writing from a personal viewpoint, the author gives insight into the exploratory and complex nature of the work – comments from the participants add to its richness. This report is well worth reading as it provides evidence for practice while recognising the challenges in this field.

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