What’s on: the best of the week’s health-related TV and radio

Sunday June 15
UK Horizons 9-10pm
The Human Body
This is another chance to see the episode called ‘First steps’. Motion analysis, a new filming technique, reveals the intricate details of how babies crawl. Medical imaging shows the tiny organ in a baby’s ear that ensures balance.

Monday June 16
BBC World Service 10.05-10.30am
Travels of the Mind
Psychiatrist Raj Persaud continues his look at the care of people with mental illness.

He visits the Belgian village of Geel, where care in the community is taken to new levels. Every household in the village takes in one or two patients with mental health problems, who are then able to live normal, useful lives from within these homes.

BBC Radio 4 8-8.30pm
Why Did We Do That?
Tonight’s programme explores the intellectual and political drive for eugenics which hit Britain in the early 20th century. People as diverse as Winston Churchill and Marie Stopes, the birth control pioneer, saw state involvement in reproduction as essential for reshaping the population. Why was the British eugenics movement so popular and why did it fail?

Tuesday June 17
Channel 4 9-10pm
Bom to be Different
See Pick of the week

UK Horizons 10-11pm
The Human Body
‘Raging Teens’ are the subject of this repeat episode.

Professor Robert Winston charts the changes at puberty as hormones surge through the teenage body.

Bom to be Different

See Pick of the week

Pick of the week

Tuesday June 17
Channel 4 9-10pm
Bom to be Different
Three years in the making, this is the first programme in a candid and unsentimental three-part documentary series about the pressures and joys of bringing up a child with disabilities, such as Nathan Christie (above). It shows the challenges faced by six families as they raise their children. Starting from the initial shock and guilt of diagnosis they progress through the minefield of medical problems, operations and mixed emotions. Episode one concentrates on their first year. How do parents come to terms with the knowledge that their baby has disabilities?

Pre-operative Assessment – Setting A Standard Through Learning
Ellen Janke et al
University of Southampton
178pp plus CD Rom; £65
This book was written through collaboration between the University of Southampton and the NHS modernisation agency. It focuses on the processes involved in effective pre-operative assessment with surgical patients. The chapters include: reasons to assess pre-operatively, cardiovascular and respiratory assessment, the airway, common conditions and planning of care. The chapters focusing on cardiac and respiratory assessment are particularly creditworthy. The text is easy to read and is presented in a logical and coherent format, with clearly identifiable titles, so that readers can quickly find the information they require. This book would be extremely useful to nurses working in pre-assessment clinics and surgical units. Owing to its specialist nature, and its price, I would not suggest nurses buy it; however, four copies have been distributed to each English trust.
Tim Collins RGN, BSc

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Charting new routes for learning

This book provides comprehensive guidance to understanding the theory and processes of problem-based learning and enquiry-based learning. It is arranged in three parts. Part one sets out the premises that underpin the two approaches, which will benefit readers who are unfamiliar with them.

Part two provides useful information on specific aspects of learning using problem-based and enquiry-based approaches, by way of project illustrations and case studies. Chapters five and six describe various information-gathering strategies: using interviews, documents, practice observation, field trips and the internet.

But it is the final section that readers will find particularly useful. Chapter 10 presents a case study of a problem-based learning inquiry concerning the challenges of rehabilitation for patients with facial burns. In the following chapter, the case study illustrates enquiry-based learning and focuses on the experiences of mentors and nurse teachers who wanted to enhance opportunities for learning in the clinical area.

This is an informative resource and will be an essential study guide for students and nurses.
Graham Sloan RMN, RGN, DipN, BSc

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