Changing approach to psychological trauma

As the Battle of the Somme’s anniversary looms and post-traumatic stress disorder continues to be an enduring issue for the armed forces, what lessons in treating mental illness can we learn from the first world war? Claire Chatterton, writing in *Mental Health Practice*, examines the changes to treating psychological trauma during the Somme by health professionals who had rarely worked with people experiencing mental health problems. Chatterton encourages us to remember the role of nurses working to alleviate psychological wounds. One change was the ‘talking treatments’ developed by pioneering hospitals that accompanied initial rest. Environmental factors were also recognised as playing a role, replacing the previous belief that mental illness was hereditary.


New leadership model for learning disability nursing

Could learning disability nurses hold the key to a new direction of care and leadership? Jim Blair, writing in *Learning Disability Practice*, says there must be a response to the inquiry into premature deaths of people with learning disabilities. One way for a new form of leadership could be band 8 nurses practising at consultant level. With their experiences of caring for people with learning disabilities, nurse consultants can shape service delivery and pathways to enhance quality of care, reduce poor practices and avoidable deaths.


Storyboarding used as an aid to explore grief

Yvonne Dexter, writing in *Nursing Children and Young People*, discusses the use of storyboarding and its use as a reflective practice aid. As children’s nurses are among the child health professionals most directly affected by childhood death, storyboarding can provide nursing students with a safe environment to reflect on their feelings about the death of a child. Ms Dexter considers the potential for its use in practice, for example in clinical supervision and classroom settings, to manage grief.


“A surgery matron has written a hand hygiene promotional video rap to encourage staff, patients and visitors to wash their hands. Vicky Cartwright from University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust rewrote the lyrics to 1990s hit rap, Ice Ice Baby.”


“‘We have to put honesty ahead of our fear, because that is the only way to put patients first. Are you ready for this kind of honesty?”


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