

a reflection on the book's running themes, including images of ageing, valuing personal care and relationships, balancing rights and risks, rehabilitation and empowerment of older people, critical care, inter-professional issues and developing roles in nursing, with questions about raising the quality of practice and education.

An immediate and noticeable difference from the earlier editions is the many engaging photographs to captivate the reader. The book is also brought to life with literature, poetry, illustrative quotes by older people, case studies, useful tables of facts and figures, other boxed material and figures, as well as references to recommended reading, useful journals, sources and websites. There is something in this book for everyone, and the lighter presentation in no way undermines the quality and seriousness of its content. The book brings together the evidence base for nursing older people in an accessible, creative and sensitive manner. Given the ageing of the population and what we know about the prevalence of ageism in society, this book should be essential reading for all health and social care professionals (including managers), be they qualified or unqualified. Nursing older people is often delegated to others with little experience of care and sometimes no educational qualifications. The wisdom and expertise shared in this book should convince us all of the need to be more circumspect in our thinking and practice.

City University, London

JULIENNE MEYER

doi:10.1017/S0144686X0627572X

Judith Phillips, Mo Ray and Mary Marshall, *Social Work with Older People*, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, Hampshire, fourth edition, 2006, 208 pp., pbk £17.99, ISBN 1 4039 1613 6.

The first edition of this book, by Mary Marshall, appeared in 1983, when very little had been published on this topic in the United Kingdom. It preceded the *NHS and Community Care Act 1990*, and reflected our hopes that new community care arrangements would mark a sea change in the status and significance of social work with older people. At that time, children's services took the lion's share of qualified social workers and, outside hospitals, older people received little service from qualified social workers. Those of us who were involved in the drive to change this situation warmly welcomed Marshall's work.

There is sadness at the heart of this recollection because this latest edition puts forward sensible and sensitive models for social work practice at a time when the position of social work with older people is even more unsatisfactory than in 1983. The high hopes engendered by the work undertaken before the 1990 Act, including it must be said, excellent guidance from the Department of Health, have been dashed. A model of 'care management' has evolved in which there seems little place for the reflective practice described in this book, and moreover there are doubts about the contribution of social work to adult-care services in general. The authors refer to these issues in the epilogue and in Chapter 3, in the context of the changing social-work role. My own view is that it would have been

preferable to address the problem at the beginning and then to have made a powerful case (which the authors clearly believe there is) for fighting back. My concern is that the intended readers ('beginning practitioners') will be discouraged by the situation they find at work and will be sighing, 'if only', as they leaf through the book.

That said, the book is sound and well presented. Part 1, 'The social work context' gives a wide-ranging account of the background, 'themes and issues in ageing', including a full discussion of the organisational context and of inter-agency working. Part 2, 'Practice issues', gives an orderly account of social-work processes, using case material skillfully. All the ingredients are there to make social work with older people as interesting, challenging and worthwhile as in any other field. I was surprised that the issue of abuse was not given more space; this may reflect my interests and it is clearly a challenge to cover the wide range of topics fairly. The fact that there has been official recognition of the problem, embodied in the publication *No Secrets* (Department of Health 2000), is however a landmark and, importantly opens up a route to develop social-work practice, using some of the experience gained in child protection. Of course, there are dangers in facile analogies but there is a very important space for social workers to occupy in this aspect of adult protection. In fairness, there is some discussion of this matter but it is very brief. I am left with an anxiety that the main work of community care may be in some way being split off from adult protection. I hope I am wrong. These comments are not intended to detract from the overall value of this welcome addition to the literature. It is good to have a scholarly, well founded book that makes the case for the importance of social work with older people.

## Reference

Department of Health 2000. *No Secrets: Guidance on Developing and Implementing Multi-agency Policies and Procedures to Protect Vulnerable Adults from Abuse*. Stationery Office, London.

University of Nottingham, UK

OLIVE STEVENSON

doi:10.1017/S0144686X06285726

Paul Dornan, *Delivering Benefits in Old Age: The Take-up of the Minimum Income Guarantee*, Ashgate, Aldershot, Hampshire, 2006, 254 pp., hbk £50.00, ISBN 0 7546 4688 2.

Especially if you are not British or do not pay UK National Insurance contributions, you might think that the take-up of the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) is of limited interest. The MIG was a short-lived replacement of Income Support (a social security benefit) for people aged 60 and over that, in turn, was replaced in October 2003 by Pension Credit. But Paul Dornan's comprehensive and informative book actually shows that MIG take-up resonates to the