

Hospital and nursing yearbook

Hospital and Nursing Yearbook for Southern Africa: Comprehensive Health Services Information for Southern Africa. 32nd ed. Pp. 288. R230. Cape Town: H. Engelhardt. 1992.

Not only is this an outstanding publication with regard to the encyclopaedic scope of the information provided, but every year it also contains some very interesting articles. My favourite from the 1992 edition is Dr Errol Pickering's article 'Contemporary debates in health services management' which he subtitles 'Or demonstrating the neurology of the headless chicken'. As Director-General of the International Hospital Federation, Dr Pickering is well placed to compare and contrast the efforts being made in various countries to reorganise their health care delivery systems, often, as he points out, with a complete disregard for research into what is actually needed. Other articles of note are 'A model for co-operation between the public and private health care sectors in the "new" South Africa' and one from Zambia entitled 'The health care challenge of the shanty'.

The rest of the publication this year is the same, but different. The same because of the meticulous attention to detail in providing *inter alia* a wealth of facts about hospitals, clinics and other institutions. Different, because it also now covers hospitals in Botswana which join the existing listings in South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Another helpful change is that rural clinics now appear immediately below the hospitals to which they are attached.

The statistical section has been enlarged to include TB and psychiatric hospitals, State and Provincial health care expenditures and human development indicators.

We have said it before, and have no hesitation in saying it again, this publication is an indispensable source of reference, which should be on the bookshelf of every health administrator, medical superintendent or indeed anyone who has anything to do with the administration of health care delivery in southern Africa, for whom it is not a luxury but a necessity.

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