

the brief study of the life table, for instance, might have been better handled by being either expanded or firmly referred. I found some of the references to the developing world somewhat arbitrary, with huge topics referred to and dismissed in a sentence. Obviously in a book of this type one does not expect detail—yet if an issue is important enough to be raised it is logical to expect some sort of comment. For example, onchocerciasis is referred to once as a disease of great importance, which is difficult to control—and then is not referred to again, even as a cause of blindness in the developing countries in a later section.

The most interesting chapters, I found, were the more philosophical ones at the end of the book, particularly on the more ethical issues. It is worth reading—but as the author says, it is not a study guide to pass exams. It is an excellent guide to further reading.

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Half a century of social medicine. An annotated bibliography of the work of Alice M. Stewart. Ed: Barber CR. (Pp 218; £7.50) Billingshurst: The Piers Press, 1987.

This book marks an award to Dr. Alice Stewart from the Right Livelihood Fund on her 80th birthday. Dr. Stewart has been an outstanding investigator in social medicine. She was a colleague of two other pioneers, Charles Fletcher at the Pneumoconiosis Unit at Cardiff, and then of John Ryle at Oxford, where she remained pursuing her well-known investigations into radiation exposure and the incidence of leukaemia in children. The book consists mainly of reprints of Dr. Stewart's important papers. These are introduced and linked by the discussion of some personal biographical details (particularly in respect of changes early in her career from clinical medicine into social medicine) and of the developing investigative and analytic sophistication adopted in the studies. Three features stand out; the thoroughness and rigour with which Dr. Stewart carried out her research, the personal strength and confidence she had to infer and then stand by conclusions from her work that were contrary to contemporary belief, and the enduring importance of her work. Her identification of potential harm from pre-natal x-ray exposure to the foetus has modified antenatal care throughout the world, and her work on dose-response patterns and the danger of low dose radiation has changed thinking in this field. The book is not only a tribute to Dr. Stewart, it is also an

outstanding example of the benefits to mankind that can come from epidemiological research.

MICHAEL WARREN.
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Workshop on The Role of Women in Health Sciences and Health Care in Developing Countries, Feb 1-5, 1989.

COSTED, in collaboration with Kovalevskia Foundation, the Tamil Nadu Women Doctors Association and others, is planning to conduct a five-day workshop on Feb 1-5, 1989, in Madras on the above topic. The proceedings will be published in book form.

The workshop will discuss the present status of health science and health care programmes and the training of health scientists in developing countries, with special reference to constraints which hamper progress in the training of women for these programmes, and factors which may facilitate their active role in the programmes. The workshop participation will be restricted to women health scientists, five from India, ten from developing countries in Asia, five from Western countries and ten young scientists from India as observers.

COSTED will sponsor the travel of five scientists from Asia, and the Kovaleskia Foundation, two from Vietnam and one from Kampuchia.

Those interested in taking part in this workshop are requested to write to Prof CV Ramakrishnan, Hon Programme Director, COSTED, Gandhi Mandap Road, Guindy, Madras-600 025, India, along with their CV giving a short summary of their role in training health scientists and implementation of health programmes.

International Conference on Community Nursing, 16-17 March 1989, 's Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands

CALL FOR PAPERS

The International Conference on Community Nursing has two aims. First an international exchange of information regarding home-care services. Second, to present the findings of research concerning a variety of topics in community nursing.

Those wishing to present results of their research regarding Community Nursing at the conference are invited to send title and abstract (one page) of their papers to the Netherlands Institute of Primary Health Care. For information, please contact: The Netherlands Institute of Primary Health Care, Ada Kerkstra, PhD, PO Box 1568, 3500 BN Utrecht, The Netherlands. Tel:- 3130319946.