

in health and refers to sources of knowledge such as the WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health and some national public health strategies. The authors also state that an upstream approach is required. Yet, they are quite vague on how this understanding might be transformed into health promotion practice. An upstream intervention means that health promotion has to be carried out in sectors such as finance, transportation, labour, etc. Most health promotion workers, however, are based in the health sector. The crucial question is how the health sector might affect finance, transportation, etc. The book, however, gives little practical or theoretical help, eg useful theories might be obtained from political science. Yet, few references are given to this discipline.

The health promotion tradition, with its roots in health education, seems still to have limitations when approaching political issues. This book, as in most on this subject,

has a chapter on “empowerment”. This concept seems to be contradictory when applied to social determinants of health. Health promotion workers are often funded by taxpayers’ money. That means that ordinary people pay these practitioners to help them take control over their own lives. This might be relevant for individual health behaviours. Yet, to affect living conditions in general is a matter of democracy and distribution of power. Democracy, however, is not a word mentioned in the index. Evidence has been a crucial concept in public health during recent decades. The authors rightfully distance themselves from a narrow medical interpretation of evidence. Yet, their own perception is extremely wide. It includes not only scientific knowledge but also practitioner views, political knowledge, public opinion, etc. With such an enlargement of meaning, evidence seems to mean arguments in general, rather than reference to specific knowledge. The authors enlarge

other ideas in a similar way. Thus, they might obtain consensus from a wide audience—but give little help to either the practitioner or the academic. Accordingly, the book has obvious limitations.

**S V Bremberg**

Department of Public Health Sciences, Karolinska Institute and Swedish National Institute of Public Health, Stockholm, Sweden; sven.bremberg@mac.com

## CORRECTION

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K Modig-Wennerstad, K Silventoinen, D Batty, *et al.* Association between offspring intelligence and parental mortality: a population-based cohort study on one million Swedish men and their parents. *J Epidemiol Community Health* 2008;**62**:722–7.

The third author’s name was incorrect and should be G D Batty.