



LEADER

I hope you enjoyed reviewing and reading the first issue of NURSING FOCUS. Please do not be content to be a passive supporter of this Journal. Although nurses now write to nursing journals much more frequently than five years ago there are still many who have the ability but lack the courage to take the first step.

I want Nursing Focus to be known as the nursing journal where a large number of nurses have their first efforts published. All at Nursing Focus are prepared to help you achieve this ambition.

There is a tremendous opportunity given to all nurses especially at Nursing Officer — Nurse Tutor and above to communicate with each other. Perhaps you feel you could only write a letter at first. This is very acceptable. Later you can extend to your first article. How to go about writing an article/paper? I really must stress the fact that you do not have to wait until you have obtained an 'O' or 'A' level in English Language before you put thoughts to paper. For papers containing research type of material or those discussing academic subjects, then a thorough knowledge of methods used and a full appreciation of statistics is required. There are, on the other hand, many subjects relating to the introduction of new systems, or alternative approaches to management problems, or management styles, you may have developed. In education a rather unusual allocation system of learners may have been introduced or experimentation with aims and objectives on a ward may have interested you.

What we need is that paper that you have promised yourself you would write when you have time. For this activity time has to be found.

What is Nursing Focus prepared to do? Barbara Rogers, our Editor, upon receipt of your paper will read it from an Editor's point of view and advise you on style and presentation. I or one of the members of the Editorial Board will advise on professional content. The chances are that an article will emerge that can be published. If that is so, you will have the satisfaction of seeing it in print. If it is not suitable I can guarantee that the experience will prepare you to try again soon.

There is particularly a dearth of nursing management material and Nursing Focus wishes to be the medium through which nurse managers can rectify this deficiency. There are many different ways of writing a paper. Most books on the subject are rather specific: list three or four headings, expand sub-headings under each of the major headings, then fill out with appropriate sentences and paragraphs. Now that is a very good, clear way of going about the task. Unfortunately, not everyone has an orderly mind just like that. To some the only way to write comfortably is to have one major theme in the mind and to start writing. I am one of these people so I was very comforted to read a few months ago what John, the famous hymn writer and priest, said in one of his helpful letters in 1781 to an enquirer. He wrote "I beg your Lordship's permission to fill up the paper with a view to these enquiries. I do not mean to offer a laboured essay on them, but such thoughts as shall occur while the pen is in my hand."

Incidentally, he is as well known today for extended letter writing as he is for composing the hymn 'Amazing Grace'.

With this introduction why not put your ideas into writing and let my colleagues help you to make your views known to the nursing profession.

Anthony Carr
Consultant Editor

FIRST-TIME WRITERS

Contributions from senior nurses writing for the first time will be welcomed by the Editor of NURSING FOCUS.

Articles from ward sisters of all grades, of a factual nature and also those expressing viewpoints on current subjects, will be favourably considered for publication.

The length of articles suggested could be approximately 750 words. If possible, material should be typed in double-spacing with wide margins and must be original work not previously submitted to other publications.

The name and address of the author should appear at the end of the typescript.

Photocopies are not acceptable.

Send your manuscripts to: The Editor, NURSING FOCUS, Recorder House, 91 Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16 0AU.