Nursing Rituals: Research and Rational Actions

Jane Salvage

Closer scrutiny of the effectiveness and efficiency of nursing, midwifery and health visiting is becoming increasingly necessary. In particular, nursing research is uncovering many practices which are at worst downright harmful and at best useless. Any book which challenges nurses to examine their work in the light of research findings is therefore timely and topical.

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This text aims to analyze the reasons for failures on the part of the nursing profession to reach the standards expected by society in the latter years of the 20th century. It describes the rituals and myths that still abound in hospital wards that hamper progress in nursing care. Related PDF to Nursing Rituals Research & Rational Actions by Mike Walsh PhD BA(Hons) RGN PGCE DipN(London) A&ECert(Oxford), Pauline Ford MA(Gerontology) RGN DHMS. Menzies argues that nursing hierarchies and ritual practices protect nurses from the anxieties provoked by encountering human suffering. This proposition is examined with particular reference to ritual practices in nursing. It is argued that Menzies studied nurses in isolation from the societal and subcultural norms and values which direct hospital activity. The characteristics of ritual and rational action, and the difference between non-rational and irrational rituals, is explored. The findings of three 5-month periods of participant observation are presented as illustrative case material to support the authors view, that ritual procedures are not only defence mechanisms against anxiety, but social acts which generate and convey meaning.