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son and Engelhard (Univ. of Virginia) offer an excellent, well-documented text that provides facts to address half-truths and debunk 20 myths about health and illness care, encouraging readers to become engaged in the process of improving the health of the nation. Garrison is an academic who chairs the National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality, and Engelhard is a health policy analyst. They distinguish medical care provided primarily by physicians from health care that is provided by social, economic, educational, consumer, and health professionals. The book addresses American medical care compared to health care in other countries, the cost of medical care compared to health care (both prevention), the criteria for measuring quality of care, and gaps in the scientific evidence. The final section offers solutions intended to improve health and illness care, including near-term incremental changes, an expanded national approach, and a long-term system change, but time will come when voters, lobbyists, the president, and Congress will have to make national health care a reality. The book offers a selection of resources and references separate from the main text. Summing Up: Recommended. All levels. —J. E. Thompson, Michigan University

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Harwood (Univ. of Arizona) looks at issues of communication as they relate to older Americans. This interesting, easy-to-read book provides a comprehensive framework for considering communication and aging in the contexts of biology, sociology, and psychology. In this four-part volume, the author raises and outlines theoretically societally deals with aging—what they are, how they develop, and how they may persist or change. Among the contemporary issues he addresses are communication between older adults and health care professionals, and communication via the Internet. This working considers both individual and social factors that influence communication, and the impact of various means of communication in such areas as intergenerational friendship, elder abuse, and cultural differences. This thought-provoking book is strongly anti-ageist. It could serve as a broad overview for anyone interested in the myriad of issues related to communication and aging. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-level undergraduates through graduate students, professionals/practitioners, and general readers. —M. M. Shuster, DeSales University

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The concept of “presence” as a contributory factor in the healing process has long been discussed in the nursing literature. Koerner (independent scholar) contends that the essence of nursing is more than the nursing process. Dealing with the “doing” and “being” complexities of providing nursing support for self-healing, this work offers a framework for integrating process with presence. Drawing on Carl Rogers’ self-actualization theories, Healing Presence represents an act of passion for the profession, a window to a personal journey, and an invitation to view the nursing profession’s contribution to healing in a Jungian context. Topics range from the context of nursing practice in the creation of a healing field to healing versus transpersonal interactions. The work’s values comes from its integration of scientific, creative, and spiritual philosophies as a core context for the complex nurse-patient interaction involved in the prevention of a healing environment. But the attempt to integrate such a range of philosophies and theories may be confusing for inexperienced readers. The organization of the individual chapters lacks consistency, and readers must browse the table of contents to gain an overall perspective. Each chapter provides adequate references and is peppered with pearls of wisdom from various individuals. Includes a glossary. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students and professionals/practitioners. —N. I. Henry, The Pennsylvania State University

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While most theorists and policy makers tend to assume that informed consent ought to be as explicit and as specific as possible, Manson (Lancaster Univ.) and O’Neill (Univ. of Cambridge) argue that this view is unwarranted. Instead they recommend an approach to informed consent that focuses on the specific results or expectations that a patient or research subject might choose to waive informed consent, and the reasons why a patient or research subject may wish to waive those results. This book is useful for anyone interested in the topic of informed consent. —T. L. Richard, The Pennsylvania State University