conducted through a structured interview but delighted with the opportunity to reminisce at random, will enjoy this piece. However, it would be helpful if Ms Graham could have given guidance and examples of the presentation of the written or taped material gained in this manner.

The predominantly feminist bias to the whole book, especially the chapters by Sue Scott, 'The personable and the powerful: gender and status in sociological research', and Janet Finch, 'It's great to have someone to talk to: the ethics and politics of interviewing women', will increase the understanding of the student of the history of nursing in interpreting and recording events that have occurred in what is still primarily recognised as a woman's occupation.

The book rapidly dispels the myth in vogue amongst some nurses that research is the exciting and guaranteed solution to all nursing problems. It will also be useful reading for any nurse investigating the history of research in nursing and for the student of the new Diploma in Nursing, Unit Five on research. It is a book to read when weightier tomes are threatening to overwhelm.

The chapter by Nicky James, a nurse turned sociologist, will reassure some nurses who are anxious to move into an academic milieu and I suspect that many will be attracted by this chapter first and move on to the rest of the book from there. It may also come as a surprise to nurses and to others working in the NHS that other disciplines are beset by traumatic and equally disruptive re-organisations as Colin Bell's chapter, 'The SSRC: restructured and defended' illustrates.

Ronald Frankenburg offers a salutary thought for the nurse or doctor researching nursing or medical history: "the hospital doctor, primary health physician and even the nurse may not be aware that there is a set of experiences to be orchestrated. Their biological training may have deprived them of the ability to perceive, the desire to act and the skills to do so". Perhaps the concepts expressed in this book may provide insights which could redress the balance and certainly anyone wishing to follow any of them further will be helped by the wealth of reading identified in the extremely comprehensive bibliography.

F.S.

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Sources for the History of Nursing in Great Britain
Christopher Maggs (ed. & comp.) with the assistance of Malcolm Newby
King's Fund Project Paper No.46, King's Fund Centre 1984, £2.50

This book, by Christopher Maggs and Malcolm Newby, is an invaluable guide to sources in the history of nursing. It has a very readable style, in which the writers display a certain mastery of the discipline and subject area which has allowed them to bring clarity and simplicity to the presentation.