This is a fascinating book that is designed to make the subject enjoyable. It succeeds, and I highly recommend it. Marc Cornock is a senior lecturer in law at the Open University Law School

Avoiding Errors in Adult Medicine
Ian Reckless, D John Reynolds, Sally Newman et al
Wiley-Blackwell
184pp | £29.99
ISBN: 9780470674343

This BOOK is presented in three parts. The first discusses the causes of errors in adult medicine. The second looks at 34 case studies, each following the same format: a scenario, questions on what you would do at various points, expert clinical opinion, legal comment and key learning points. And the final part is concerned with the investigation of errors and the process by which errors are dealt with, including disciplinary processes, the involvement of the courts, and investigation of a doctor’s practice by the General Medical Council.

The case studies in the second part have sufficient breadth to be useful for nurses working in adult medicine. Marc Cornock is senior lecturer in law at the Open University Law School

Spiritual Care in Practice
George Fitchett and Steve Nolan
Jessica Kingsley Publishers
320pp | £18.99
ISBN: 9781849059763

This BOOK presents a series of illuminating case studies of spiritual ministration. This should be useful for nurses and managers, many of whom have limited awareness of chaplaincy work.

Experiences of illness and of being a patient are complex phenomena, which cannot be understood simply in clinical contexts. Attending to spiritual needs is an important element of holistic care, as shown by the case of Yesuto, a Nigerian psychiatric patient troubled by his belief in witchcraft.

Rosie Ratcliffe, an Anglican chaplain of Assyrian origin, listened without judgement. Tentatively delving into the past, Rosie discovered that a punitive regime at a boarding school had left its mark on Yesuto, instilling in him exaggerated fears about sin and its consequences. Her approach contrasted with that of doctors and nurses, who simply viewed the ideas of sorcery as symptoms of psychosis. Through the healing powers of faith, Rosie helped Yesuto to challenge his fear and mental chains.

Whether you are of religious or atheist disposition, you will find this book has something to offer. The case studies are exemplars of spiritual engagement but are also a heart-warming reminder of our shared humanity. Niall McCrae is a lecturer at the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery, King’s College London and a member of the Nursing Management editorial advisory board

Clinical Governance: Improving the Quality of Healthcare for Patients and Service Users
Mary Gottwald and Gail E Lansdown
Open University Press
198pp | £24.99
ISBN: 9780335262809

THE FOCUS on quality improvement in health care seems to generate a never-ending series of campaigns, which are superseded almost as soon as they are announced. But the one constant in this is ‘clinical governance’.

This compact volume provides an excellent introduction to the many strands of quality improvement it embraces.

The chapters cover the background to current concerns about quality, exploring quality failings, and developing change strategies. The essential requirement for evidence-based practice is stressed, together with the role of audit and complaints management in alerting nurses to issues that need tackling.

Throughout the text, activity boxes encourage the reader to reflect on what they have just read, and apply the lessons to their own clinical practice. John Adams is honorary research associate at the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, Royal College of Surgeons Ireland
Nurses are increasingly being called on to engage in spiritual care with their patients. A diverse body of theoretical and empirical literature addresses spirituality as it relates to nursing practice, yet there is little consensus about what spiritual nursing care entails. The purpose of this article is to conceptualize spiritual care in relation to nursing practice. A brief historical review indicates that our current understandings of spiritual nursing care have been shaped by three eras characterized by particular approaches: the religious approach, the scientific approach, and the existen