Nursing is seldom expressed the way that it is in this book. It is written by a person who has been nursed or nursing all her life and it is recounted with honesty and candour. Every reader will find something to take from this narrative and nurses will no doubt see something of their own life mirrored in the many anecdotes and stories.

Nursing: Out from under the bushel is a book which brings into the light the authors rich experience of the world and work of nursing. Through its words it subtly challenges individual nurses to think deeply about what ‘being a nurse’ means to them.

What nurses do is a very big deal. Nurses choose to be nurses. No one tells them they have to do it but for some reason they decide to. The people they care for honour them by allowing them into their lives at what can be the most vulnerable and dramatic times of their life. How nurses position themselves, how they ‘walk’ with their patients, how they connect and care for them has consequences both for those in their care and for themselves.

One of nursing’s unique realities is that the work crosses normal social boundaries. It is work that is not easily talked about outside of nursing, and the support nurses provide for each other is important in enabling them to remain healthy and able.

Nursing has a rich history. Florence Nightingale lit her lantern of caring more a then a century ago. The light from that lantern continues to glow and it is relit every moment of everyday by nurses all around the world as they go about their work.

This book is more than just a story of nursing. It is the story and chronology of a professional life, intermingled with the telling of personal accounts and experiences. It also includes some special thoughts on nursing now and into the future. Nursing in the present day, presents many new challenges and opportunities. The workforce is one which adapts well to new ideas and situations.

The future of nursing is in nurses hands and as such it can look to the future with confidence and pride.

The writer salutes nurses everywhere.