NURSING HISTORY: Foundations of a Profession
2nd Edition

BY WENDY MADSEN
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Preface

Nursing has generated a number of myths and images over the past century. Ask anyone what they think of nursing or nurses and you will hear a range of opinions. Indeed, you will rarely receive no response. Concepts relating to nursing are generated from within the media, stories are handed down from former nurses, perspectives are weakened or strengthened every time a person comes in contact with a health facility and they meet a nurse. Yet how realistic are these concepts and images? What is the basis for the views of nursing we hold? This book considers the historical foundations of professional nursing in Australia. It introduces you to a number of factors that have influenced the evolution of nursing and explores the constructs upon which professional nursing has been built. By considering these issues, you may be challenged to rethink the concepts and images you have of nursing and nurses. However, it is only by taking a long, hard look at ourselves and where we have come from that we can approach the future with a clear vision.

Wendy Madsen

Acknowledgements

Many thanks are due to Sonja Cleary and Teresa Sander for reading earlier drafts of this book. I am also indebted to Julie Bradshaw for her input regarding the history of mental health nursing.
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