workers who work with older people. The ongoing saga of the Single Assessment Process in England and Wales is surely a testament of the need for recognition of the importance of this technology and the need to ensure that choosing appropriate assessment instruments should be on the basis of sound knowledge and not the whims and preferences of very well meaning people who do not have the knowledge or understanding of its many pitfalls.

While not the definitive text on assessment, this book is a highly recommended resource and should be on the shelf of every department that has anything to do with older people. It does not provide all the answers, but together with ‘Measurement in Neurological Rehabilitation’ (Wade, Oxford Medical Publications, 1992) and ‘Geriatric Assessment: The State of the Art’ (Rubenstein, Wieland & Bernabei, Editrice Kurtis, 1995) anyone with an interest in this critically important subject will be very well equipped.

IAIN CARPENTER
CHSS, George Allen Wing, University of Kent, Canterbury
doi:10.1093/ageing/afh237

Providing Integrated Health and Social Care for Older Persons: A European Overview of Issues at Stake

Edited by Andy M. Alaszewski and Kai Leichsenring

This book provides an overview of European approaches to integrated health and social care, based on literature reviews in nine EU countries. The first two chapters explain the PROCARE project, which compares and evaluates different European approaches to delivery. Key themes from the nine national reports are introduced.

Lapses in proof reading and translation, many abbreviations (some never explained) and much repetition with a plethora of detail made it difficult to grasp key messages. More robust editing, highlighting key themes, would have made the content more accessible.

Despite this, some clear messages emerged. Legal, financial and organisational frameworks rarely facilitate integration and often inhibit it. Professional tribalism and self-interest militate against integration. Nevertheless, motivation among key players can overcome barriers. Cooperation, collaboration and coordination save money and improve quality of service.

Disappointingly, the UK chapter, despite mentioning the BGS, never refers to geriatricians’ involvement in the design or delivery of integrated services. Geriatricians get little mention elsewhere, perhaps because most of the contributors are social gerontologists, economists or nurses.

This is a book for involved researchers rather than the busy geriatrician.

GABRIELLE GREVESON
Newcastle
doi:10.1093/ageing/afh244