presence of significant cognitive impairment, and recommended against using screening procedures based on a Mini-Mental State Examination or on the judgement of a third party.

This publication reminds us just how important basic human rights are and that individuals, however disabled and cognitively impaired, do better if they are kept occupied, interactive and involved. Boredom is not good for older people. This book should be read by any professional involved with the care home sector. Staff should be trained to identify and help prevent key emotional, psychological and physical problems. A good care home is one that not only delivers care but also ensures that staff are trained to encourage resident involvement, participation and activity.

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Changing Worlds and the Ageing Subject: Dimensions in the Study of Ageing and Later Life

Edited by Britt-Marie Oberg, Anna-Liisa Narvanen, Elisabet Nasman and Erik Olsson


To highlight the diversity in this 10 chapter book I will highlight some areas discussed: (i) the differences in having your first child at 20 versus 45 years of age or losing your job at 25 versus 55 years; (ii) the increasing numbers of children or step-children who co-habit giving care which affects older people; (iii) the ‘children in the middle’ phenomenon when women in their 40s or 50s are simultaneously looking after adolescents and elderly parents; (iv) 13% of unemployed men aged 16–49 years have been unemployed for three years or more compared with 43% of those aged 60–64 years in the UK; (v) 58% of 60-year-old men are employed but only 34% at the age of 64 years.

I would recommend this book as a basis for improving knowledge of Social Gerontology and providing fascinating anecdotes to quote on ward rounds and at dinner parties. Most clinicians will find at least one of the chapters to be a source of information as to how the future practice of Elderly Care Medicine will adjust as social and family support alters beyond recognition.

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