
BOOK REVIEW

The Management of Chronic Illness Patient and Doctor Perspectives on Parkinson's Disease

by Ruth Pinder.

MacMillan Press. 1990. 141pg.

R35.00

This is a super little book – its title does not do it justice. It reports the findings of a study conducted by Ruth Pinder, a sociologist with a long-standing interest in the problems of the disabled and disadvantaged, to discover the extent to which patients' relationships with their general practitioner helped or hindered their coming to terms with a debilitating illness. The illness

chosen was Parkinson's Disease. The reader is sure to learn a great deal not only about Parkinson's Disease and patients' experience of it, but also a great deal about patients' experience of chronic disease in general. As well, the reader has the opportunity to reflect on his or her own response to chronic illness and those suffering from it.

The chapters of the book highlight a number of themes of universal importance for general practice including: "Uncertainty and the Patient-Doctor Relationship", "Detachment or Empathy",

"Controlling the Uncontrollable", and "Patient and Doctor – Match and Mismatch". The book concludes with an excellent chapter on the nature of the research process itself.

This book is highly recommended for all practitioners who care for patients with any kind of chronic illness and would also be valuable reading for many patients. The book also serves as a model for research in general practice.

R J Henbest
