Nursing assistance in the mother-child area comes on a scale of change and growing established concepts. This dynamic of changes and new knowledge health professionals require a constant update, which depends directly on the dissemination and availability of access to recently published works. In this sense, this review aims to provide the nursing professionals a production that offers updates on maternal-neonatal assistance.

The book <<Nursing in maternal-neonatal practice>>, published in 2012, with 298 pages, with organizers: Neil Daniel and Mido Kings, nurses, master and PhD, respectively, and teachers at the undergraduate and graduate level. The construction of the book has eight collaborators, all are nurses. The work constructs a language textbook of clear understanding, objective and well-illustrated, specific to the maternal-neonatal practice.

It discusses the everyday reality of assistance in Brazil, since it is written by Brazilian nurses that translate into words their practical experiences always based on scientific evidence. It condenses issues inherent in nursing care, in this area, from the first to the last chapter, through the description of concepts and forms of care to women, the infant and family.

The publication presents 29 chapters divided into two parts: the first dealing with the Maternal Nursing and the second, the newborn, focusing on issues that permeate the obstetric and neonatal practice. It brings concepts linking theory to practice, bypassing the legal aspects inherent in gynecological obstetric and neonatal field, current technologies and humanized assistance in the different moments of the gravid-puerperal cycle for both the woman and the fetus. The current references based approach has confronted and complemented with classic literature in the area.

In the first chapter is described in the female reproductive system, bringing basic concepts from the female anatomy, information about the menstrual cycle and where they will start the pregnancy. It introduces the pregnancy from the diagnosis, pointing out signs of probability and certainty.

In the second chapter are presented the changes of pregnancy, punctuating the
numerous anatomical, physiological and hormonal changes experienced by pregnant women during the gravid-puerperal cycle. These are described by systems (circulatory, urinary and respiratory), facilitating the teaching study of the reader who comes to a halt of this literature.

The third and fourth chapters discuss issues related to the consultation of family planning and gynecological nursing, pointing out the legal and welfare aspects, the anamnesis and physical examination and nursing interventions in this area. They bring a simple and punctual approach the gynecological examination description of women’s breast and material collection techniques for laboratory analysis. They also talk about the contraception of possibility of use by customers, bypassing the natural barrier, hormonal and surgical, discussing from the best indication to the forms of use. These chapters provide the reader the essential foundations to support care practice to women, based on technical and scientific knowledge, safety and quality.

In chapter five is addressed the nursing consultation on prenatal care, with their specific characteristics. It presents step by step to a prenatal consultation, seeking the quality of care, through the anamnesis, physical examination, interventions and possibility of educational actions. The obstetric examination is described by authors succinctly and clearly, with many illustrations, which facilitates the understanding of the reader to the procedures to be explained.

Chapters six and seven describe the mechanisms of childbirth, clarifying the female anatomy and how it should be carried out to evaluate the fetus from this, delimiting the fetal static (situation, position, attitude and presentation). They discuss the labor itself, punctuating their clinical periods, changes and interventions to be carried out during this time. The authors talk about the humanization of obstetric assistance and about the pain during labor and the ways to work these issues in order to provide greater comfort and safety to the patient, considering that, currently, the humanized assistance is the focus of attention in the health services, permeating obstetrics and neonatology. Mechanical stages of childbirth are described in form of illustrative schema, allowing the reader a better view of how this phenomenon occurs.

Chapter eight presents the puerperal period, bringing relevant information about accommodation system set, his pet peeve and importance for the formation of the mother-infant bond. In addition, deals with the physiological adaptations of the female body, discusses guidelines and interventions in this period and addresses issues of pathological puerperium complications such as bleeding, infection, and psychosis.

In the ninth chapter, the authors talk about breastfeeding, its advantages for mother and newborn, the beginning of this practice and nursing techniques of breastfeeding and of hand milking. It briefly brings the breast anatomy and hormonal functions involved in the process of lactation, which facilitates the understanding of the process as a whole.

The tenth chapter ends the maternal part of the bibliography, addressing the specifics of risk pregnancy, pointing and elucidating diseases that can affect pregnant women during pregnancy, such as hypertensive disease of pregnancy (DHED), gestational diabetes, perinatal hemolytic disease, in addition to the complications of premature birth and premature rupture of membranes and ectopic pregnancy. It also deals with complications such as bleeding in the gestational period, culminating in abortion and hyperemesis Gravidarum. Infectious diseases are brought to discussion, their clinical forms and the main interventions in each one. The authors discuss the relevance of knowledge of these complications to the implementation of good practices of social assistance.

From the eleventh chapter begins the discussion of the newborn, whether healthy or high-risk, showing its specificities, findings of normality and abnormality and disease discussion, described by each system of the body. Assistance to the neonate is based from the systematization of nursing care (SAE) through its stages of construction and applicability.

The first chapters of this second part of the book discuss the healthy newborn and its adaptation to the extra uterine, described by the changes that have occurred in each system of the body. It discusses the physical examination, the general assessment and clinical findings for each segment. Evaluation techniques are introduced throughout the text and illustrated so that the vision and understanding of what is written is very quiet to who uses the literature for enhancement of knowledge. The skin of the newborn is also addressed in its specificity of care, injury prevention, use of adhesives and other artifacts that may cause injury to this organ.

Chapter fifteenth introduces the emergence of the newborn. It discusses with much subtlety the build role of the family,
especially of parents at the birth of this child, the development of the bond, the psycho affective needs of the neonate, in addition to dealing with issues such as the conduct of the meeting between the parents and the baby in a neonatal intensive care unit and the support in case of loss.

In the sixteenth chapter, the authors talk about the assessment and management of pain in the neonate, dealing with its repercussions in the short, medium and long term. The pain rating scales are brought to discussion, its use and methods of operation in the control of the event, through the use of pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions. This text is supplemented further when, on the 20th chapter, are discussed the care for the neurobehavioral development of the newborn to prevent damage, such as light and noise reduction, use of appropriate contentions, soft touch and firm, in bed, among others. This form of care advocates the individuality of handling in accordance with each neonate, respecting the signs that it presents during the offer of assistance.

Chapter seventeenth deals with the thermal stability, pointing to regulation, the environment and methods of heating and thermal protection via technologies available.

Chapter eighteenth describes the mediate and immediate care of the newborn, such as maintenance of the airways, clamp and cut of the umbilical cord, maintenance of body temperature, Apgar score, identification and administration of vaccines and vitamin K, first given to neonate, still in the delivery room. In the next chapter, it deals with the neonatal resuscitation interventions carried out in the delivery room. Guideline-based schemes are used in neonatal resuscitation, in which the step by step of the assessment and conduct is described in a clear, objective, practical and easy to understand.

In chapter twenty-one are covered the concepts linked to the administration of drugs to the newborn, discussing the pharmacokinetics and ways of administration, its indications and artifacts used to access them. At the twenty-second chapter, the electrolyte and nutritional balance are discussed through the mechanisms of water losses, electrolytic disorders, causes, signs and treatment, in addition to the nutrition needs of the newborn, ways and methods of administration of enteral and parenteral feeding.

In the twenty-third chapter, prematurity is put into focus as the subject, illustrating the main respiratory problems found in premature patient, which will be reported in subsequent chapters. In the twenty-fourth to twenty-seventh chapters is discussed about the disorders that can affect the premature newborn in their respiratory systems, gastrointestinal, neurological and hematological. In addition, it describes the pathophysiology, clinical presentation and treatment of main diseases of these systems. In respiratory approach, the authors bring concepts on oxygen therapy, also their management and relevant nursing interventions. The hematological approach is one of the most common performing neonates: physiological or pathological jaundice. Educational schemes are used and easy to understand to explain matters of metabolism and pathological development.

In the twenty-eighth chapter, congenital malformations and surgical found in the neonatal period are addressed from the simplest to the most complex and difficult to fix. Again very well illustrated and outlined, the text brings to the reader the information easy to understand. Cardiology, features and signs and symptoms diseases are discussed. In the end, it is a reflection on the management and care that should be offered to infants who are in pre-and post-surgical situations, such as the need for respiratory thermoregulation, function and feeding, skin postoperative care, pharmacological support, pain control and support to the parents.

The last chapter of the book deals with the neonatal infection. The measures to be adopted are presented as a means of prevention of infections, in a table divided by type of infection and the related system. Objectively and practice are raised infection diagnostics, epidemiological indicators and presented measures for prevention and treatment.

In General, this work presents the different situations involving the woman during the gravid-puerperal cycle, as well as the healthy newborn care or affected by some pathology. Given the above, the book in question presents itself with a current literature and excellent tool for knowledge of proposal for the nursing area. It is built in a clear, comprehensive and objective way, with easy reading and teaching, also benefit students from the area, without losing sight of the scientific, ethical, holistic look and human of woman and newborn care.