Men and Maternity

Rosemary Mander
Since the development of modern medicine men have become increasingly involved in childbearing as obstetricians and, more recently, as fathers. Childbearing has been revolutionised due, in no small part, to the involvement of men.

This book argues that the beneficial contribution of men has been taken for granted. Certain changes to childbearing practice have resulted, which, together with men’s involvement, have been encouraged without any reference to evidence and without adequate opportunity for reflection.

Considering the findings of recent research and wider literature, and using qualitative research with mothers, Men and Maternity traces the beginning of men’s involvement in childbearing in practising interventive medicine discusses the medicalisation of childbirth and highlights the potential for iatrogenesis for the mother and child due to unnecessary interventions looks at the difficulties men experience with childbirth as fathers and their responses to these difficulties gives attention to certain particularly challenging situations, such as fathers’ grief analyses the taken-for-granted assumptions about the beneficial contribution men make to childbearing, both as practitioners and as fathers, and asks whether there may also be disadvantages.

This book is the first to question assumptions about the beneficial involvement of men in childbearing. It will therefore be of great interest to academics and postgraduate students of midwifery, obstetrics, medicine and health studies, as well as practising midwives and obstetricians, health visitors, childbirth educators and labour and delivery room nurses.

Rosemary Mander is Reader in Nursing Studies at the University of Edinburgh. She has almost forty years’ experience of midwifery practice, working alongside men and with men as fathers. She has published widely on childbearing and midwifery.