This in-depth new edition of an enduring ANA classic defines nursing's value and accountability to society.

The book's singular contribution is its description of the nursing profession and its essential elements:
* Social context and contract
* Nursing's knowledge base
* Definition of nursing
* Scope and standards of practice
* Authority for practice
* Regulation of practice

These elements have been revised in recognition of the ongoing advances in nursing practice and knowledge, delineating and reaffirming the deep societal commitments of the profession.