

through the normal working week; they generally have therapeutic oversight (from psychiatrist, psychologist or social worker) elsewhere and will have given informed consent to the exchange of clinical information with the hostel; they will have a weekly session with a 'counsellor' (a residential care staff member) who is the "eye and ears of the social worker"; additionally, there are roles for the agency director (in periodic reviews) and, if necessary, other staff, including the consulting psychiatrist. The regime is fairly highly structured and staff-directed, but patients are expected to share the domestic chores, there is a weekly community meeting, and so forth. The ideology is one of encouraging the maximum individual autonomy, and the method focuses principally on "functional assessment in relation to environmental demands" – a level of behavioural analysis intermediate between the broader generalisation represented by a psychiatric diagnostic label and more detailed statements concerning individual psychopathology. An illustration is the description (in one of the numerous clinical vignettes which are an attractive feature of this book) of getting, in the space of three months, a 31-year-old woman with a 10-year history of schizophrenic disorder who was "worse than incompetent in the kitchen" to be able to cook a dinner for ten with "... comfort, competence and pride in her mastery".

This, then, is a useful training text; we can also see what it is not. It includes no evaluation; it is not comparative; and it is not as theoretically sophisticated or consistent as, for example, Jansen's *The Therapeutic Community* (Croom Helm, 1980). But such comments constitute as much a criticism of the contemporary state of residential theory and research as of this book; as such, they are also a prescription for the next decade of investigation in social therapeutics.

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**Psychological, Neuropsychotic and Substance Abuse Aspects of AIDS.** Edited by T. PETER BRIDGE, ALLAN F. MIRSKY & FREDERICK K. GOODWIN. New York: Raven Press. 1988. 279 pp.

Perhaps in no other disease process is the concept of holism (as opposed to reductionism) so vital as in the understanding of AIDS. The purist might, however, argue that a single human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), at the very moment of possible infection, is subject to laws of quantum mechanics. He or she might assert that whether or not a person becomes infected is dependent on the interaction of the gp120 molecule of the virus coat and the CD4 sites of the macrophages and lymphocytes, which in itself depends on molecules and atomic interaction, which in turn may depend on the uncertain behaviour of electrons or their leptons.

This book contains 23 chapters on a wide variety of AIDS-related issues, and is edited by three distinguished members of the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Many of the authors are household names in the psychoneuroimmunology field.

Some of the chapters seem at first to have little bearing on AIDS and HIV disease. They discuss various neuro-receptors (e.g. transferrin, insulin, *raf* proto-oncogenes) in different brain sites. It is a little difficult to understand the relevance of 'Acetylcholine reception and the rabies virus' to this book's subject. Yet another chapter is devoted to the theoretical use of event-related brain potentials in HIV disease.

There are a number of chapters on psychological aspects of AIDS and the immune system, with a fascinating and relevant chapter on Voodoo, stress, and AIDS. Other chapters are devoted to the effects of nitrites on HIV disease, the effects of various drugs of addiction and alcohol on HIV progression, and a thought-provoking chapter on the psychoimmunoneurology of HIV disease. The short chapter on neuropsychological testing of HIV does not discuss the other much larger studies on this topic that were presented as long as two years ago at the international AIDS conference.

Finally, there are chapters on classical conditioning and immunomodulation, and on stress, life events and types of behaviour that put people at risk of HIV disease.

This book is on the whole well written and exciting. All psychiatrists should read it.

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**Facts, Fallacies and Frauds in Psychology.** By ANDREW M. COLMAN. London: Hutchinson Education. 1988. 224 pp. £6.95.

As a change from an edited book of papers by other people, Colman has selected seven contentious areas in psychology to discuss himself. The benefit of a single author is in the continuity of style, but the debit is that the attempt to cover an exceptionally wide canvas is inevitably touched by his personal outlook. Progressing through the book, one guesses more and more accurately which perspective he will take on his next subject, his overall view being somewhat left of liberal.

For example, Colman begins with a clear view of the complex ideas involved in intelligence tests, but is fashionably against their use. In fact, he describes the I I Plus exam as more divisive than social class or money, and "a notorious use of psychology". Of course, Cyril Burt is said to be a scoundrel and much of the evidence of intellectual differences between individuals "mere superstition". Having spent two chapters discussing IQ and its relationship to race, he ends lamely that we can