

the enjoyment of the subject. As regards a better comprehension, as far as I know no one has yet compared the grades of those who have used this text with those who have not. Whether the book—which seems somewhat overpriced for a paperback—is worth the money and will genuinely provide a better understanding of basic social psychology is something the potential purchaser will have to decide for himself.

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Advances in Psychological Assessment. Vol. V. Edited by PAUL McREYNOLDS. London and San Francisco: Jossey Bass. 1981. Pp 564. £23.50.

This book consists of ten specially written chapters each on topics of current interest in psychological measurement. Unlike so many books on psychometric issues, this one is refreshingly free from statistical technicalities and thus will be of greater appeal to readers of this journal. In addition the topics which it covers have considerable psychiatric relevance: behaviour settings (very useful for the study of the effectiveness of different hospital regimes), stress, suicide, the Lunen-Nebraska-Neuropsychological Battery, group psychotherapies, the outcome of mental health treatment, together with two chapters on the Rorschach and Jung's extraversion-introversion.

The chapters are extremely useful as sources of reference for their subjects so that the book is valuable for this alone. The chapter on Jungian theory (singled out for comment only because your reviewer is most familiar with this field) is a very valuable survey of research done with the Myers-Briggs indicator. However, it is clearly the work of an enthusiast, as indeed are most of the chapters in this book. This means that those perhaps unfamiliar with the area may well be carried away by this enthusiasm and launch into research that could prove disappointing. On the other hand this enthusiasm gives the chapters life and makes them a pleasure to read. This book can be warmly recommended as a guide to research in the areas it deals with.

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Dealing with Drink. By IAN DAVIES and DUNCAN RAISTRICK. Foreword by SIR GEORGE YOUNG. London: BBC. 1981. Pp 256. £4.25.

Dealing with Drink was written to accompany a radio series of the same name and is designed mainly for those in the 'caring' professions who are likely to deal with problem drinkers. It is, though, eminently

suitable for people who have a more personal interest in drink problems, namely the relatives and friends of heavy drinkers.

It is an unusually wide-ranging book, opening with an historical account of our changing concepts of alcoholism, and dealing in turn with its medical and social consequences, treatment of drink problems and, not least, their prevention. Although there are a number of points that one could argue about, my only real quibble concerns the authors' use of a 'safety limit' of 100 grams of alcohol for daily drinking—although they do qualify this later on. Physical dependence is unusual below an intake of this order but there is now a considerable body of evidence indicating that complications such as liver disease and brain damage can occur at lower intakes than this, particularly in women. The book reflects the wide experience of the authors in dealing with alcohol-related problems. It is well written and attractively presented; I wish it well.

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Handbook of Biological Psychiatry. Part IV. Brain Mechanisms and Abnormal Behaviour. Edited by H. M. VAN PRAAG, M. H. LADER, O. J. RAFAELSEN and EDWARD J. SACHAR. New York: Marcel Dekker. Pp 963. Sfr. 250.

This is the fourth part of a six-part series covering the psychophysiology, genetics, chemistry and drug treatment of psychiatric syndromes. This volume consists of almost 1,000 pages so the fashionable title of handbook is misleading; it is more of a *Lehrbuch* than a *Handbuch*.

It is largely concerned with the biochemical origins of psychiatric syndromes and the latest findings on the mode of action of psychotropic drugs. There are comprehensive reviews of the biochemistry of schizophrenia (Crow) and affective disorder (van Praag) with excellent concise summaries of each section for the hasty reader. Over 100 pages are devoted to neuropeptides and opiate receptors but although innumerable hypotheses are generated there is little concrete clinical data to impress the practising clinical psychiatrist. This is not surprising; this is a rapidly developing field and the contributions to this volume were completed over two years ago.

Chapters on memory (Squire and Schlapfer), alcohol dependence (Littleton) and kindling (Post and Ballenger) will be of more interest to the physiologist and biochemist than the psychiatrist. He will be more at home with the detailed chapter on anorexia nervosa (Crisp) and the more completed jigsaw of Huntington's chorea (Bird and Iversen). The volume

ends with review of the mode of action of anti-depressants (Kopin), neuroleptics (Bartholini), lithium (Schou *et al*), benzodiazepines (Ladinsky *et al*) and hallucinogens (Freedman).

Although this book is directed at "the entire range of individuals who are interested in the relevance of biochemical and medical knowledge to the psychiatric and neurologic patient", it will be largely incomprehensible to the lay reader. It is the physiologist and biochemist who are likely to find the book of most relevance. The clinical psychiatrist will find the chapters on the major psychoses of practical value in delineating the current views on the biochemical origin of these illnesses, although the remaining chapters should whet his appetite for the forthcoming feast of new neurotransmitters.

The book is an essential purchase for all biochemical and psychiatric libraries although it should be obtained in conjunction with the other volumes in the series.

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Emergency Psychiatry for the House Officer. By W. R. DUBIN and R. STOLBERG. Lancaster: MTP Press Ltd. 1981. Pp 166. £8.95.

Judging from its title and content this American book seeks to provide a concise practical guide to the management of patients with psychiatric disorders presenting to the casualty officer. After two general chapters on diagnosis and examination the authors cover systematically the major organic functional behavioural and drug and alcohol related disorders and conclude with a lengthy appendix on the psychiatric side effects of medical drugs. The general lay out and style are easy to follow and some of the chapters, especially those covering delirium, grief and the violent and suicidal patient are extremely good. Unfortunately the weakness of perhaps the most important chapter, namely that on the psychiatric examination, presents a major drawback. In addition some of the other chapters are patchy in quality and the use of a slightly different drug regime to that normally used in this country may confuse the British casualty officer. I therefore feel unable to recommend this book as it stands but would not wish to dismiss it completely. If it could be tightened up,

especially as far as the first chapter is concerned, then it would provide a useful guide to the casualty officer who often has to deal with complex psychiatric problems without immediate recourse to expert psychiatric help.

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Vulnerabilities to Delinquency. Edited by DOROTHY OTNOW LEWIS. Lancaster, Lancs: MTP Press. Pp 327. £24.50.

The approach to the study of delinquency can only be done in a broad fashion encompassing all of its aspects. Though technically a delinquent is any child under the age of sixteen who has registered a conviction against himself (or herself), in practice this includes such potentially widely differing children as those who steal to those who murder.

The manifestations of delinquency may be clearly social in nature, though its origins and antecedents are complex. The role of the doctor, and more particularly the psychiatrist, in the assessment and treatment of delinquents is best undertaken not only in the context of a multi-disciplinary therapeutic team but also in close proximity with the courts and social institutions which act to sustain human justice.

Vulnerabilities to Delinquency is written by an American Professor of Psychiatry who takes the very cogent view that the psychiatric assessment of delinquents is often inadequate. It may fail to elicit psychiatric symptoms, and even frank psychiatric illness including psychosis, when the aggressive behaviour of the child is of an unacceptable degree. Workers in the contemporary forensic field would endorse the observation that antisocial behaviour may at times be not a feature of a patient's personality but rather a symptom of an illness which is a departure from the norm for that individual.

Professor Otnow Lewis presents a detailed and balanced discussion which demonstrates the many areas of overlap between antisocial disorders and medical and psychiatric factors in both delinquents and their families. I very much enjoyed reading this book and would positively recommend it as a valuable addition for all those interested in further understanding of the reasons why children and young adults defy the norms of society.

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