

by patients failing to attend, or turning up late are all too familiar, as are patients who are suspicious of treatment, who resent their therapists, or who would rather have their personal difficulties dealt with by medication. Chapters on the "no show" patient, on medication, on group psychotherapy, and on social and racial issues, as well as staff and training matters all contribute to this excellent book, as does a very good chapter on psychotherapy in general.

Purists may wince and I find myself stopping short of lending money to patients, but for those who wish to practice psychotherapy in the Health Service this is a very welcome book indeed.

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Psychopharmacology of Anticonvulsants. Monograph No. 2. Edited by MERTON SANDLER. Oxford University Press. 1982. Pp 163. £15.00.

This is an interesting book. As Sandler writes in his preface, because of the advances in the understanding of epilepsy, it was appropriate for the British Association for Psychopharmacology to invite a group of international experts to make statements about various aspects of the condition from their particular viewpoints. What follows in each of the 14 sections, is a combination of a review of the current literature (a useful source of references) as well as many reports of studies in animals and man. The volume can be divided into two main parts, firstly where the work is experimental in nature using a variety of models of epilepsy. The importance of 'kindling' is emphasised and this accords with clinical experience that the more seizures that occur the more likely is a recurrence. The central role of gamma-amino butyric acid is re-emphasised. There is then a second part dealing specifically with drug treatment. Richens gives a helpful account of the use of drug monitoring and in which compounds it is most valuable. Perucca emphasises the problem of drug inter-actions and Toone *et al* indicate how anticonvulsants may affect sex hormones and activity. These and other sections emphasise knowledge or lack of it on drug effects in epilepsy. Practising clinicians know they affect behaviour, cognitive function and may produce mental symptoms though there still remains considerable scope for research when treating the individual patient; here the current position is clearly and usefully stated. Taylor's section on epilepsy as a model of sickness reminds the reader that unacceptable as it is, this is an important consideration. We are thus presented with a stimulating series of contributions. Could there not have been a final section

assimilating all the various aspects covered? With that modest reservation the book is strongly recommended.

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Children and Parents in Hospital: Early Stimulation and Therapy Through Play. Reprint from "Paediatrician" Vol. 9, Nos. 3 to 4 (1980). Edited by JOHN LIND, SUSAN HARVEY and LUCILLE NEWMAN. Basel: Karger. 1980. Pp 120. U.S. \$12.

Twenty-four years after the Platt Report, the standard of care children receive in British hospitals still varies greatly between hospitals and even between wards in the same institution.

Following a series of conferences on the psychosocial needs of hospitalized children, an international, multi-disciplinary and enthusiastic group of experts describe their practice with children ranging from the neo-natal period to adolescence, with parents, with families, and with staff. Their differences in facilities and emphasis are the most attractive aspect of the book. The chapters vary in quality and some are uneasily translated. Overall, the book is readable and well produced but not indexed. It is addressed to a wide audience and all of it could be understood by an intelligent layman. It is likely to persuade anyone who can be encouraged to read it that children in hospital have special needs beyond expert physical care. Those already alive to these issues might find ideas to improve their service and, at the price, it may be a suitable present for surgeons who also operate on children, the younger, organ-orientated, paediatrician, and selected hospital administrators.

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Behavioural Approaches to Neurology. By JOEL F. LUBAR and WILLIAM M. DEERING. New York: Academic Press. 1981. Pp 209. £14.60.

I approached this volume eagerly having read most of Joel Lubar's fine experimental work on feedback training, and expected, as the title and preface suggest, a broad thesis on the rapprochement between behavioural medicine and neurology.

However, I was disappointed to find the book very much more restricted than this, and thus strictly limited in its usefulness. First, only one aspect of behaviour therapy was considered, that of biofeedback training, to the exclusion of many more widely used techniques (programmed learning, shaping by contingency management, the development of alternative