

This textbook of schizophrenia combines general concepts with clinical particularity. There is not enough clinical illustration. In a hilarious introduction a gushing academic announces it to be the most important and clinically relevant book on schizophrenia to be published since Bleuler's. That it is not. Some of the included essays would struggle to pass the British psychiatric membership exam. So much for *that* academic hurdle. The excitement of the book lies in its novel animadversions: how grand that the section on treatment centres on the psychotherapy of schizophrenia. It is quite the best general account of this thorny subject since Sir Ivor Batchelor's contribution to the Glasgow symposium of 1957.

The book is nicely turned and is bound in purple, warning of the colour of the prose to be found within. The text is jargon to the point of being a parody of psychiatry. Often it is difficult to know what the authors are trying to get at. But behind the appalling slang lurks a minor monograph. American concepts of schizophrenia (incubated in private practice) have preserved a feeling for the mind which has long been mortified by the British obsession with aping general medicine and surgery. Too often the British academic hierarchy has sacrificed clinical interest on the altar of fact-gathering. British psychiatrists should read this book if they can borrow a copy. Then, if they can penetrate the prose, they will stumble on insights which will introduce them to the psychiatric approach to mental affliction.

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The Work of Hanna Segal: A Kleinian Approach to Clinical Practice. By HANNA SEGAL. New York: Jason Aronson. 1981. Pp 249. \$25.00.

The one overriding feature of the Kleinian approach to psychoanalysis, which distinguishes it from all others, must surely be its uncompromising commitment to the concept of 'psychic reality'. It envisages a self with a subjective unconscious internal world, populated with internal objects which seem to lead a life of their own, yet constantly interact with external reality, shaping our every conscious thought, feeling and action. In Hanna Segal's papers, collected together over a period of thirty years, this vision of psychic reality permeates and informs them all. It serves as a unifying theme, linking papers on technique, theoretical discussions, essays on aesthetics and clinical descriptions.

Following Melanie Klein, Susan Isaacs and Paula Heimann, she describes clearly how a world of unconscious phantasy can be conceptualized; rooted originally in biological necessity as the mental rep-

resentation of instinctual impulses, augmented through the mental processes of introjection and projection and subsequently expanded and enriched by the process of symbol formation. She shows us how this world can be revealed and investigated in the transference relationship and, more important, how it can develop and change. It is this single-minded devotion to the primacy of psychic reality, deriving its sense of conviction from work with small children, which allowed Kleinian analysts to extend their clinical range and attempt to treat people with severe psychotic problems. Nowhere is the humanity of this approach better illustrated or the importance of sustaining an open and hopeful frame of mind, than in Hanna Segal's inspiring account of her analysis of a severely three and a half year old man, who had been given a hopeless prognosis by his psychiatrists, and the subsequent follow-up to his eighty-fifth year.

Hanna Segal's book will be read by a wide public; it is a contribution both to the field of psycho-analysis and to our culture as a whole.

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The Handbook of Marriage and Marital Therapy. Edited by G. PIROOZ SHOLEVAR. Lancaster, Lancs: MTP Press. 1981. Pp 552. £23.75.

Dr Sholevar fails to specify the aims and intentions of this book and leaves the reader unsure, even at the end. The first section is on psychodynamic theories in marital therapy; the second, on theories and techniques of marital therapy, takes us through the existential, behavioural, assertiveness training, structural/strategic, transactional analysis approaches and adds chapters on couples group therapy, couples communication and marital enrichment. The third section introduces the reader to legal factors facing a family in custody proceedings and separation; the emotional impact of family disruption on children; the contextual approach to child custody decisions; and includes a chapter on neurotic problems in marriage. M.R.C.Psych. candidates might find useful the chapters on behavioural approaches, an overview of sex therapy and a review of research on marital therapy.

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CORRECTION

The title of the book by Margaret J. Little (*Journal*, December 1981, 139, 575) should read **Transference Neurosis and Transference Psychosis: Toward Basic Unity**. Jason Aronson. 1980. Pp 323. \$25.00.