

system, important nosological issues are not critically discussed. The first section of the book includes another six chapters which describe the clinical features of agoraphobia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, childhood and flying phobias, and evaluative anxiety disorders of a generalised and specific nature. A detailed account of management follows the description of each condition (apart from evaluative anxieties), incorporating behavioural and some cognitive approaches. The chapters on agoraphobia and compulsive ritualisers provide excellent accounts of treatment.

The second part of the book consists of several chapters describing strategies and techniques that can be used to aid anxiety reduction and to assist exposure (e.g. breathing control in hyperventilators, education of patients about anxiety and coping tactics). Two further chapters describe marital and interpersonal therapies which can be helpful as adjuncts to exposure in some cases. The book ends with one chapter each on the psychoanalytic approach to phobias and drug treatments of anxiety disorders.

This is a multi-authored book and there is some repetition. Some important topics, such as the treatment of social phobia, are omitted, but there is a critical discussion and evaluation of the various treatment approaches described in the book. In addition, as much of the book is devoted to the behavioural approach, an introductory chapter setting out behavioural principles (analysis, goals, negotiation, measurement, evaluation and feedback) would have been useful, instead of these being scattered throughout the book.

The book has a few excellent chapters but, in my opinion, is not in itself a complete handbook. It is suitable for libraries rather than the individual. Furthermore, in these days of limited funds, it is rather expensive.

GERALDINE O'SULLIVAN, *Lecturer, Department of Experimental Psychopathology, Institute of Psychiatry, London*

Clinical Approaches to Violence. Edited by KEVIN HOWELLS and CLIVE R. HOLLIN. West Sussex: Wiley & Sons. 344 pp. £35.95.

This book aims to present a cognitive and behavioural analysis of the causes of violence and to provide a basis for planning the treatment of people who have been violent. It looks at violence in a number of settings, in particular within the home and various institutions.

'Clinical' in the title of the book means paying "primary attention to the psychological characteristics of the individually violent person". The editors do not attempt to include the relationship between mental illness and violence (another book in this series will cover the topic). Nevertheless, although it is aimed primarily at probation officers and psychologists, sections of the book are of interest to psychiatrists.

The most successful chapter is that on sexual violence. Here, the authors unite research evidence into a coherent theoretical framework which then serves as a basis for a treatment model used by the authors. They describe its application both in general terms and with an account of one case and go on to describe the evidence that their treatment has some effect on recidivism. Unfortunately, none of the other chapters combine research work with practical experience of treatment in such a comprehensive fashion.

The chapter of most obvious potential relevance to psychiatrists is that on violence in psychiatric hospitals. This describes the research that has been done in the field and points to how little is known. This chapter is not in fact about the individuals who commit violence on a ward but about the staff responses. Its main argument is that the standard means of managing violence on the ward can reinforce it, but the strength of evidence used to support this argument is weak. For example, it argues that neuroleptic medication has "been found to promote violence", but this sweeping claim is supported by one reference which turns out to be a single case study.

The central chapters review the literature on domestic violence. These sections go beyond the declared scope of the book in describing victim characteristics and more general social factors. This widening of scope seems to be because the authors do not have all that much to say on the perpetrators of violence, and the section on treatment (of the perpetrators) is vague and does not appear to be based on any practical experience.

Overall, the book is a useful source of information on the causes of violence within the individual but less useful as a guide to treatment.

MARK SWINTON, *Research Worker, Department of Forensic Psychiatry, Institute of Psychiatry*

Diagnosis and Treatment of Senile Dementia. Edited by M. BEGENER and B. REISBERT. Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1989. 389 pp. £45.50.

This book is made up of papers given by a wide range of authors at a workshop in Vienna in 1989. The preface states that it intends to be "a comprehensive overview of current knowledge in diagnosis, prevention and treatment of senile dementia". While there is some basis to this statement as far as diagnosis and prevention are concerned, the section on treatment is certainly not comprehensive.

The book is not concerned with the care and management of people with dementia other than in relation to drug treatment, and with regard to this, only one chapter considers the possible therapeutic role of drugs affecting monoamine, cholinergic, neuropeptide and gabaergic transmission. The last 120 pages of the book are exclusively given over to papers about calcium