

Statistics". On page 24 'mental responsibility' is applied only to the exercise of will-power, but the judgement in the case of *R. v Byrne* [1960] 3 All ER 1 states: "The expression 'mental responsibility for his acts' points to a consideration of the extent to which the accused's mind is answerable for his physical acts which must include a consideration of the extent of his ability to exercise will-power to control his physical acts".

There are two major errors on page 25: that homicide committed during the course of acute psychotic illness would come within the McNaughton rules; and that psychopathy coming within the Mental Health Act 1983 definition would amount to diminished responsibility.

The publishers' blurb states that the book is the first serious attempt to counteract misunderstandings by endeavouring to bridge the gap between the criminal law and psychiatry. For those who use this text, misunderstandings will be multiplied and, following the allegory, the bridge is used at the peril of those attempting to cross.

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Issues in Diagnostic Research. Edited by CYNTHIA LAST and MICHEL HERSEN. New York: Plenum. 1987. 349 pp. \$45.00.

This book would not have been published if DSM-III had not been invented. One of the main results of the introduction of DSM-III has been much greater interest in the diagnostic process. This volume is therefore a timely look at the methodology of diagnostic assessment and broader issues about its aims, achievements, and pitfalls.

The first chapter, by Theodore Millon, is 84 pages long but represents a distillate of the principles of classification that could easily have been expanded to a book in itself. It is a masterly review of different approaches to classification and emphasises the modesty of the true taxonomist. However successful our diagnoses appear to be, we must "bear in mind that these labels and transformations are not 'realities' ". The rest of this section is concerned with general issues in classification, and include a particularly useful discussion by Grove of methods of recording reliability of psychiatric diagnosis. The second section is concerned with methodological issues, the particular problems of making psychiatric diagnoses during development and over a lifetime, and biological and genetic approaches. The latter are particularly valuable because they point to other ways of achieving diagnosis, now or in the future; their advantage is that they do not depend on the vagaries of clinical symptomatology. The third part of the book is less well integrated, and discusses diagnostic problems with special subjects. These include child psychiatry, where diagnosis still appears to be much less

important to its practitioners than in other parts of psychiatry, and an interesting chapter on computer-generated diagnosis by Headlund & Biewig.

Although this book is primarily for the taxonomist and research worker, it would be of value for others to read to see the directions in which psychiatry is going. The time has not yet come whereby a clinician's diagnosis is likely to be independently validated by other measures, but there are glimmerings of this on the horizon. We are all diagnosticians now.

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Self and Identity: Psychosocial Perspectives. Edited by KRYSIA YARDLEY and TERRY HONESS. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons. 1987. 332 pp. £28.00.

This book is a curious mixture of psychology, psychiatry, and sociology with sociology as the dominant perspective. It takes the problem of the self, one of the key issues in modern philosophy, and explores the theoretical and practical implications of the concept for sociology and psychiatry.

Like any collection of essays, some of them, such as the analysis of Eastern concepts of the self, are excellent, while others are at best pedestrian. Psychoanalytic concepts of identity and object relations are well reviewed, but the contribution of the existentialists and existential analysts such as Victor Frankl and Rollo May are, for unexplained reasons, ignored.

This is primarily an Academic work with a capital A, rich in references but rather short on insights and practical strategies for clinical practice. The academic, the research worker, and the armchair theoretician will find the depth and width of scholarship in this book a rich source. The practicing clinician, however, will probably find it rather arcane and alien to the world of patient care.

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The Psychological Experience of Surgery. (Wiley Series in General and Clinical Psychiatry). Edited by Richard S. Blacher. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons. 1987. 236 pp. £30.45.

This is a valuable collection of essays, which I would recommend highly to liaison psychiatrists and, more particularly, surgeons and other professionals concerned with the impact of surgery on patients. Written by twelve authors, it has the advantage of avoiding monotony of style; it varies from the beautifully written chapter on denial, with nine general references, to the comprehensive chapter on superobesity with 98. There is a tendency, however, for the theme of surgical

'trauma' to be repetitious without acknowledging the fact that many patients look forward to surgery as an end to pain, discomfort, or the invasion of malignancy.

The book includes many short case histories which make the text vivid, although the emphasis on individual psychotherapy tends to be a little dismissive of the value of the diagnostic psychiatric interview and physical treatments. The last chapter redresses the balance somewhat by underlining the need for rapid goal-directed psychotherapeutic intervention. The book should contain more emphasis on the strategies used to improve the ward milieu, communication between staff and patients, and the morale of staff. Equally, perhaps, the importance of understanding the premorbid personality traits should be stressed, because these so often predict the patient's attitude to the operation and contribute to his post-operative satisfaction.

These are minor strictures on an otherwise very readable and useful book.

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Studies in Neuropsychology: Selected Papers of Arthur Benton. Edited by L. COSTA and O. SPREEN. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1986. 351 pp. £36.00.

Professor Benton has not published a general comprehensive work on neuropsychology; his vast contribution to the field remains scattered throughout neurological and neuropsychological journals. This welcome volume contains seminal contributions that Benton and his collaborators have made to neuropsychological investigation. It represents, however, only a fragment of his output.

The book has been divided into nine sections, each dealing with a specific neuropsychological problem. Aphasia is the topic of the first section; the two papers in this section present a historical review touching on early descriptions of aphasia and the contribution of Freud to the interpretation of aphasic disorders. Sections II and III contain articles dealing with cerebral localisation and the appraisal of the method of double stimulation in which the problem of sensory extinction is discussed. Constructional apraxia and spatial abilities is the focus of section IV, and section V is devoted to the topic of reaction time and brain disease. The so-called 'Gerstman syndrome' is the subject of three articles in section VI, and the problems of hemispheric dominance and vision are discussed in section VII. The last two sections have a more direct relevance to the psychiatrist. One deals with the topic of developmental neuropsychology, which includes Benton's seminal paper 'The concept of pseudofeble-mindedness' (1956) in which a then-popular term is carefully analysed and criticised. The final section contains two papers

useful in the psychiatric clinic: "Problems of conceptual issues in neuropsychological research in ageing and dementia" (1984), and "Normal observations on neuropsychological test performance in old age" (1981).

The collection shows many facets of neuropsychology, and offers useful guidance in testing and test design. The historical emphasis of most of Benton's articles provides a useful perspective of the history of neuropsychology.

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The Clinical Roots of the Schizophrenia Concept: Translations of Seminal European Contributions to Schizophrenia. Edited by J. CUTTING and M. SHEPHERD. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1987. 238 pp. £27.50.

Whoever writes the first history of psychiatric anthologies in English will have to observe that, since the earlier centos by White, Goshen, Hunter & McAlpine and Hirsch & Shephard, the compass of these useful (albeit non-historical) publications has gone from the general to the particular. The same historian will also have to say that this change has made things harder for would-be anthologists.

The old anthologies assumed little historical knowledge; to produce a good one it was sufficient to rummage one's library and choose the right morsels. 'Committed' anthologies, on other hand, demand such knowledge, as inclusion criteria entail a historical hypothesis. Old anthologies were difficult to review (omissions could always result from whims or quaint preferences); the new ones can be judged historically.

The book under review offers an *aperçu* of the history of schizophrenia. The material is heavily edited, but it is possible to gain an idea of the views involved. The translations are competent and clear. Because of its guiding historical hypothesis, work by Kraepelin, Bleuler, and their clientele is mostly considered. The inclusion of Kleist is more imaginative, but Wernicke is not mentioned nor indeed Meynert, particularly his work on amnesia. One can understand why Kahlbaum's *Catatonia* has been left out (it is available in English translation), but not why his superb 1890 paper on 'Heboidophrenie' has been omitted, nor why Daraszkievicz's classic monograph on 'Hebephrenie' and Jung's work do not get a mention.

The most glaring omission concerns French works. It feels often as if inclusion has been guided more by availability than by historical intelligence. For an analysis of the earlier vicissitudes of dementia praecox in France (which, incidentally, the Germans followed with worried amusement) would have shown that during the first decade of the current century the protagonists were Marandon de Montyel, Mongeri, Parant, Monod, Deny, and Roy, and during the second Mairat and