

would like a convenient source of references in order that they may present concerned individuals with facts regarding zinc and magnesium metabolism, prostaglandins, and gluten sensitivity in relation to schizophrenia need to look no further. The chapter on the pharmacology of antipsychotic drugs is accurate, informative, and well referenced, as indeed are those on animal models, applied clinical pharmacology, and neurotransmitter hypotheses of schizophrenia. The case for the use of animal models in psychiatric disorders is made so persuasively that it must convince all but the most cynical of clinicians.

These chapters are followed by a series of competent and useful essays on clinical issues relating to the study of schizophrenia; these include diagnosis, the influence of social factors, and rating scales which may be used in schizophrenia. The chapter on the difficult issue of essential elements in the design of clinical trials is particularly well done. The thoughtful and well organised chapter on the evaluation of social functioning covers areas which are not often addressed in this careful style. The long chapters on the clinical treatment of schizophrenia and untoward effects of antipsychotic drugs cover the issues clearly and comprehensively, and the section on extrapyramidal movement disorders produced by antipsychotic drugs is very good indeed. In spite of the fact that this book concerns areas of work with which I am very familiar it was interesting and informative and I enjoyed it. It is a well-written account of the current state of knowledge of the psychopharmacology and drug treatment of schizophrenia and will be useful to trainees in psychiatry and to established clinicians.

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Can Schizophrenia be Localised in the Brain? Edited by NANCY ANDREASEN. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1986. Pp 87. £15.00.

This small volume contains the papers presented at a symposium at the American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting. In such symposia it is appropriate to make the best of one's data and to present one's case with force and conviction. The case is after all open to argument from the floor. The papers presented here must have been very successful in that situation, and Andreasen in particular develops her argument with considerable finesse.

As a written text, however, these papers have shortcomings. Most of them have been written to make conflicting cases in a way that could provoke discussion, and I am sure the authors would not claim that they have attempted a balanced or complete review of the relevant literature. This is a style which promotes lively

controversy at a meeting and which may be appropriate enough in a paper published in a journal with an active correspondence column, but it is less suitable in book form. There is no opportunity for the more argumentative reader to ask how the authors take account of the work of X, Y, and Z, or in what way the data in some of the papers cited really support the case that is made.

The last paper, by A. M. and M. A. Reveley, differs from the others. It is written in a considered and understated style which most readers will find more familiar and certainly less abrasive. The fact that the provocative quality of the other papers raises so many questions in the reader's mind may, however, be a virtue in itself. This book may raise the interest of psychiatric trainees, but it will not give them a clear view of the current state of knowledge in the field.

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Expressed Emotion in Families. By JULLIAN LEFF and CHRISTINE VAUGHN. New York: Guilford Press. 1985. Pp 241. £19.95.

The scientific approach to the study of environmental influences on the course of mental disorders has seldom been applied with the rigour expounded in Leff and Vaughan's book on 'expressed emotion'. To date more than 10 published studies have replicated the finding that the quality of the social environment in which a person lives is the best single predictor of the short-term course of schizophrenia. George Brown's remarkable first person account of the development of the 'expressed emotion' concept from 1956 to the early 1970s provides a fascinating commentary on the manner in which an intuitive experience of sensing a tense household atmosphere was eventually quantified into a highly reliable measure. The surprise and scepticism he felt on finding that this factor proved such a robust prognostic indicator has been experienced by many since.

Brown's work has been refined in the past decade. Detailed accounts of these refinements are described in the remainder of the volume. The landmark 1976 study, the London and Californian replications, and early family intervention studies are included. Although much of this material has been published in scientific journals, this book provides many additional details that will undoubtedly stimulate at least another decade of 'expressed emotion' studies.

The significance of this body of work is such that this book should be essential reading for every mental health professional and student of the social sciences.

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