

known material to be re-exhibited, but with such new comments as Angermeyer's that the effects of family intervention measures are in the opposite direction to that predicted by labelling theory. (What does Scheff think?) He also identifies the success of such intervention as being in the extent to which it modifies non-specific factors which are either stressors or moderators of social stress. Leff usefully makes clear that in schizophrenia, the association between EE and relapse is non-specific and cannot account for the particular form of the disorder.

In a magisterial summing-up, Häfner is optimistic that competing theories about schizophrenia need not be mutually exclusive, but could represent different aspects of the same central function. Although advances in genetics and in biological investigation seem most rapid and are securing most attention today, it might in fact be epidemiology – a tortoise rather than a hare – which really illuminates the fundamental nature of this protean disorder. WHO's international studies increasingly suggest a close parallel between the distribution of schizophrenia and that of moderate-severe mental retardation, so that research effort in one field could well have significant overlap into the other. This volume, notwithstanding some problems of translation, is probably the most comprehensive single discussion of current ideas and developments in research on schizophrenia, and should be read by everyone with a serious interest in the subject.

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An Introduction to Neuropathology. By J. HUME ADAMS and D. GRAHAM. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone. 1988. 309 pp. £29.95.

This book is written for general pathologists, particularly those in training, and for clinicians interested in the neurological sciences. The authors' stated aim has been to convince general pathologists that a proper examination of the brain and spinal cord is a straightforward exercise, and to achieve their objective they have provided a well-illustrated section on post-mortem technique, valuable notes on the dissection of an infant's brain, a simplified description of the development of the central nervous system, and a section of applied neuroanatomy, all of which are very useful. Most welcome of all, however, is their insistence that in virtually all circumstances the brain should be fixed in formalin *before* its examination.

The meat of the neuropathology section is also wholesome, with detailed informative sections on vascular and hypoxic disorders (25 pages), cerebral trauma (18 pages), and cerebral oedema (12 pages), and a particularly interesting chapter devoted to the neuropathological effects of vitamin deficiencies and neurotoxins.

Almost inevitably however, a book of this size will have some weaknesses; in particular, there is virtually no mention of the neuropathology of epilepsy, even though the death of a patient in an epileptic fit is not an unknown problem in the working life of an autopsy pathologist. In addition, the chapter on 'Ageing and the dementias' (6 pages) is minute compared with others. This difference in emphasis obviously reflects the interests of the co-authors, but it also leads to some imbalance in an otherwise excellent volume.

The book can be highly recommended for its intended audience, but it is not so valuable for young psychiatrists training for their MRCPsych. They will find much more to their liking in the relevant chapters in Greenfield's *Neuropathology* or Shepherd's *Handbook of Psychiatry*.

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The Halfway House: On the Road to Independence. By SYLVIA L. GOLOMB and ANDREA KOCSIS. New York: Brunner/Mazel. 1988. 244 pp. \$30.00.

An authoritative source like the substantial volume of research reviews accompanying the recently published Wagner Report *Residential Care: A Positive Choice* (*Residential Care: The Research Reviewed*, HMSO, 1988) discloses – yet again, some might say – that, compared with other client groups such as the mentally handicapped or children in social need, the adult mentally ill are notably ill-served by the available literature. Golomb & Kocsis provide a useful addition: a clear and comprehensive 'state of the art' description of work in mental health hostels. The book occupies a territory between the literature on psychiatric rehabilitation and that on residential work, and may be recommended to the growing body of psychiatrists with clinical responsibilities in this area and also to their community psychiatric nurse, social work, and residential or day care colleagues.

The authors are social workers attached to the Futura House Foundation, New York. It gradually becomes manifest that although they write in generalisations they are mainly describing the practice of a particular institution. The social context is explicitly American, but their practice, as described in seven substantial chapters from intake through to aftercare, is very much in line with that of good quality British hostels. They are helpfully clear about their management of such familiar tight corners in residential work as clinical relapse, violence, suicide threats, and love affairs between residents.

The model in operation, which could with advantage have been more clearly and succinctly set out, provides for stays of, typically, 20–24 months for discharged in-patients or direct community admissions. Residents are out of the place, at day hospital or in employment,