

chapters on therapeutic interventions for psychological morbidity are generally detailed. It is however disappointing that less than half a page is given to consideration of cognitive techniques, when clinical and experimental data increasingly supports their efficacy in the management of mood disturbances in both physically healthy and ill patients.

I found the section on the psychological and ethical dilemmas and stresses faced by different professionals working with cancer patients particularly interesting. These issues are poorly covered in other texts and this account offers valuable insights for those who practise their liaison psychiatry as part of a multidisciplinary team. The interface between psychiatry, law and ethics is given careful consideration in a chapter which focuses on issues such as psychological problems in decision making and the vicissitudes of truth telling.

At the end of the book the role of psychosocial factors in the development and progression of cancer are outlined in a measured and rather terse account. This does insufficient justice to the data in this field and perhaps reflects the fact that the book is written from a single institution. A second edition of the book in the next decade will hopefully reflect the anticipated growth of this area of psychosocial oncology. Current work on the interaction between psychological factors and the central nervous, immune and endocrine systems is particularly exciting. A subsequent edition might also give further consideration to psychological issues related to prevention and early detection of cancer, to the measurement and classification of psychiatric disorder associated with physical illness, and to the outcome of much needed trials of psychological intervention in the management of cancer related psychiatric morbidity.

This book is large and expensive but all those involved in the psychological care of patients with cancer should have access to a copy.

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Aggression in Children. Edited by LEA PULKKINEN and J. MARTIN RAMIREZ. Seville: Publicaciones de la Universidad de Sevilla. 1989. 155 pp.

There is increasing concern about rates of aggressive behaviour in children and much speculation about its origins. This paperback book contains a collection of eight papers presented at the 1987 Fourth European Conference of the International Society for Research on Aggression.

The first paper is a brief review by Benton of studies of the effects of dietary sugar on children's behaviour. The last paper is a report by the Dutch team of their contribution to the cross-national survey on the effect of viewing television on children's behaviour. This gives a

detailed account of the complexities involved in this sort of research, and provides an excellent review and critique of the international study. The other six papers are reports of recently completed or on-going research projects looking at other associations with children's aggressive behaviour. For example, two studies consider direct influences such as the modelling of overt violence by family members, and the effect of different forms of parental justification for their own or others' aggressive acts. Other studies from Finland and Holland concentrate on conditions which perpetuate violence, especially peer interactions including bullies' and victims' characteristics and relationships with others. Pulkkinen herself contributes findings from the longitudinal follow-up study of aggressive and anxious children (from age 8 years to 26 years) carried out at the University of Jyvaslyla, Finland.

Those working in academic departments of psychology where there is an interest in aggressive behaviour will already know of the work discussed in this symposium. However, for those who could not go to the meeting and for those clinicians and others who want to hear what is happening on this particular sector of the research front, this small book provides an up-to-date and accessible review.

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Psychiatric Disorders in Children and Adolescents. Edited by BARRY D. GARFINKEL, GABRIELLE A. CARLSON and ELIZABETH B. WELLER. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1990. 569 pp. £33.50.

This book is described in the foreword as a seminal work, offering a modern approach to the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of child and adolescent psychiatric disorders. It is a North American book, with 30 chapters by different eminent authors, nearly all of whom are psychiatrists. The editors (academic child and adolescent psychiatrists from Minnesota, New York and Columbus, Ohio) have aimed to produce an empirically based clinical textbook, with a laudable ambition to help "child psychiatry to reach the highest standards as a medical speciality". The editors state a further aim to provide a contrast with previous texts which have presented a psychodynamic and behavioural perspective. Moreover, the book is intended to be used as a practical guide, essentially for clinical use rather than for theoretical interest.

Despite the multiple authorship, a consistent style is achieved, each chapter containing mainly useful practical tables and large numbers of case vignettes. The referencing is generally sound and impressively up-to-date, although there is a relative paucity of British references. The layout and presentation are good, making it more readable than many large textbooks.

At times the empirical approach taken seems a narrow one, implying an incompatibility between behaviourism and empiricism and a belief that an empirically sound treatment is a pharmacological one. The style also seems to incorporate an over-confidence in the DSM-III classification system.

The book is arranged in five sections: internalising disorders, disruptive behavioural disorders, developmental disorders, specific clinical issues, and techniques in child and adolescent psychiatry. Although most important areas are covered, and the last section does find some space for individual and family psychotherapies, this arrangement is somewhat idiosyncratic. It is traditional in child and adolescent psychiatry to take a developmental perspective, wherein disturbance is set against the range of normal development. There is no section on this subject, nor is the current understanding of child psychiatric disorder given a historical perspective. Some anomalies result from the organisation of the sections: thus depressive disorder and bipolar disorder are included under internalising disorders, while schizophrenia (given relatively little space) is discussed, in the section on developmental disorders, in a chapter on childhood psychosis. Similarly, while autism and tics are seen as developmental disorders, sleep disorders are contained in the section on specific clinical issues, and attention-deficit disorder in that on disruptive behavioural disorders, where it is afforded two chapters. This compares with one of only 17 pages on conduct disorder (including delinquency).

To conclude, I consider this a worthy, up-to-date, well presented textbook of child psychiatry, although not a fully comprehensive one. It will be of most value to specialist child and adolescent psychiatrists rather than a wider multidisciplinary readership.

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Narcissism: Psychoanalytic Essays. By BELA GRUNBERGER. Madison, Connecticut: International Universities Press. 1990. 311 pp. \$19.95.

This is a very specialised area and it behoves writers on such topics to write clearly and to supply a succinct summary of their views, especially where these differ from the orthodox. This paperback was published in America in English in 1990, having been originally published in France and in French in 1971. The foreword was written by a doctor of philosophy whose attachment and profession (?psychologist) are not stated. The book contains essays which were originally published in a French psychoanalytical journal between, if I interpret the author properly, 1956 and 1971.

There are the usual references to the original psychiatric use of the term narcissism as a sexual perversion, the distinction between the psychoanalytical term and

auto-eroticism, and Freud's contributions. Grunberger, a Hungarian, tells us that his book is based on prolonged clinical observation. This is not obvious from the text. The latter is highly theoretical and appears to be based more on an analysis of people who never lived outside mythology than on the stuff of the clinical disciplines, real people. The problem with narcissism is that it has been seen everywhere (psychosis, neurosis, normals, sleepers, the physically ill) and therefore allows for all sorts of generalisations.

As in another book by this author that I reviewed recently, the style is difficult to read, the text is excessively padded with footnotes and about-turns in mid-sentence, and the reader's patience is taxed to the extreme. I do not know why this work and the previous one have both hit the English language together in 1990.

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Psychoanalytic Terms and Concepts. Edited by BURNES MOORE and BERNARD FINE. Newhaven: American Psychoanalytic Association and Yale University Press. 1990. 210 pp. £25.00.

This mini-encyclopaedia presents both historical and current meanings of the most widely accepted psychoanalytic terms and concepts. It is a revised and expanded version of the earlier glossary of the American Psychoanalytic Association. A substantial editorial board have worked with nearly 200 contributors to produce well informed and precise outlines of various concepts. Helpful references are given for further reading.

Looking up several areas of particular interest to me, I found the sections accurate and coherent, avoiding the subtle misunderstandings and distortions that tend to creep in when authors try to write of theoretical areas that are not their own.

There are also sections devoted to particular theorists – e.g. Bion, Klein, Kohut and Winnicott – with outlines of various core concepts. Inevitably the material is somewhat selective; for example, there is no mention anywhere of the important and undoubtedly innovative work of Robert Langs.

Moore provides an introductory essay on the problems of definition in psychoanalysis, discussing, for example, issues of translation, usage in different cultures, and the ambiguity and flexibility of Freud's own writing. Moore argues for the preservation of metaphor in psychoanalytic discourse, while emphasising the need to be aware of distortions inherent in the use of language. He does reveal his American bias for what is new and his dislike of the scholarly tradition in his comments on Laplanche & Pontalis' *Language of Psychoanalysis* (1973): "... invaluable to scholars in that they precisely chart the psychoanalytic port from which