from brain damage, the acquired dyslexias. Ellis follows current orthodoxy (which he is in part responsible for establishing) in relating disorders to models of unimpaired processing. That is, any disorder can be explained in terms of a disruption to a component of the intact model, rather than by the operation of processes that are not normally involved. This slant does not prevent alternative explanations from being discussed where appropriate, such as in the discussion of possible reading by the right hemisphere in deep dyslexia.

A brief chapter entitled "Words in combination" outlines how adults normally deal with more than one word at a time – which in conversation and reading text is very obviously the normal run of things. Although in such a brief overview it is impossible to do justice to all the research in this area, Ellis focuses upon the well-selected themes of memory and making inferences. Fortunately each chapter concludes with some useful and well-selected pointers to further reading.

Writing and spelling are covered next. If words in combination have received disproportionately less attention in the literature than words in isolation, the imbalance between input and output in language processes is even more striking. Ellis's book goes some way to redressing this imbalance.

It is good to see the chapter on developmental dyslexia maintained and updated. In teaching I have found this to be the best discussion available for undergraduates. There is also a useful chapter on learning to read and write.

Although processing written language is clearly a self-contained, respectable topic there are few introductory books to rival this which cover the whole of the area. All technical terms are clearly defined, and the book makes use of several clear diagrams that enhance the textual explanations. Although short, it isolates the major themes and topics of current interest in the psychology of processing written language, and summarises contemporary research in a clear way. It is also a ripping good read for us all.

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Psychopathic and Antisocial Personality Disorders. Treatment and Research Issues. By BRIDGET DOLAN and JEREMY COID. London: Gaskell/Royal College of Psychiatrists. 1994. 323 pp. £20.00 (pb).

When one describes a book as encyclopaedic, it is usually a reference to its inconvenient size and great weight rather than to its content, but this book, which has none of the former qualities, is truly encyclopaedic in its comprehensive and discerningly analytic coverage of the topic. Psychopathic disorder has received more informed attention in the past decade than previously, when it was dismissed as no more than an epithet. There have always been those who have viewed psychopathy and personality disorder with both interest and concern, and current trends in society indicate that the treatment or management of personality disorder is becoming an increasingly important issue for mental health workers. The Dolan and Coid book draws together virtually all that has been written on the subject and puts opinions, research findings and outcome studies in perspective with unbiased commentary. What is so gratifying about the book is that previous works are not simply alluded to, leaving the reader to search out the original, but the relevant features of the work under review are summarised and critically appraised for us on the page.

While diagnostic attitudes receive due attention and are sharpened up in the final recommendations, all the therapeutic approaches are reviewed with some surprising revelations. The book concludes with an overall summary (although each chapter is summarised conveniently for the reader) and suggestions for future research. The required discipline and methodology for such research, and indeed for appropriate treatment, is outlined with clinical examples of how an appraisal of a case should be made based on allocating the case to one or other recognised diagnostic categories of personality disorder, elucidating the clinical syndrome and defining the type of behavioural disorder. The authors make the point that "the untreatability of psychopaths may in part result from the professional's inadequate assessment . . ." and ". . . it cannot be said that the psychopath is untreatable until we are satisfied that all possible treatment interventions have been tried, adequately evaluated and then shown to fail."

Finally, do not judge a book by the space the *Journal* editors allot the reviewer! This is without doubt the best overview of a difficult but most important and fascinating topic that I have yet encountered. Highly recommended for the individual reader, it is essential as a source book for any psychiatric, sociology or criminology library.

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The Neuropsychology of Schizophrenia. Edited by ANTHONY DAVID and JOHN CUTTING. Hove: Lawrence Erlbaum. 1994. 406 pp. £34.95 (hb).

In 1991 the Institute of Psychiatry hosted an international conference on the neuropsychology of schizophrenia. This is the book, and the latest addition to the series "Brain Damage, Behaviour and Cognition". Conference proceedings are not always an enticing read, but this publication shows that a successful conference can produce a stimulating book.

Collectively its chapters (by both psychiatrists and psychologists) provide a wealth of information and

ideas on current and future research into the cognitive disorders, and their localisation in the brain, which underlie the symptoms of schizophrenia. Techniques discussed range from diverse cognitive tests, through analysis of home videos, to PET neuroimaging. Clear explanations of theoretical background and experimental techniques ensure that each topic is accessible. Author and subject indexes and extensive referencing will make it useful as a resource book.

The diversity of the book is, however, both its strength and its weakness. It offers a neuropsychological perspective on a disorder which is aetiologically heterogeneous, in which a multitude of psychological and neuropsychological deficits are studied using diverse research techniques, pursuing different theoretical models at different levels of explanation. In effect the book offers a review of the state of research into the neuropsychology of schizophrenia, but (perhaps inevitably) no synthesis of the many ideas on offer. It will be valuable to psychologists and psychiatrists with a particular interest in this field. Clinicians wishing to develop their understanding of the diverse psychological and neurological processes underlying schizophrenia will want to dip into it, but may be disappointed by a relative lack of direct therapeutic relevance and overview.

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Family Therapy: Fundamentals of Theory and Practice. By WILLIAM A. GRIFFIN. New York: Brunner/Mazel. 1993. 204 pp. US $18.95 (pb).

This is a welcome addition to the range of books available on family therapy. It surpasses other introductory textbooks on the subject for a number of reasons, the most commendable of which is its clarity.

It is my impression that it is often difficult to convey the shift of perspective required when a family therapy mantle is taken on. A number of basic assumptions about therapy, systems and relationships underpin all family therapy or, more accurately, systemic approaches. These are often overlooked, not emphasised enough, or are conveyed in a language so complex that the reader is instantly turned off. The crowning achievement of this book is that it does get across some very basic ideas and goes on to build on these. For example, Griffin talks about "therapy with the relationship" which I find a very useful shorthand prompt which should help the novice to hold on to a systemic perspective. Furthermore, his explicit explanation of what that actually means is helpful. His idea of exploring relationships with "intangible objects" such as family myths, preconceived notions of ideal behaviour, or the history of the relationship, seems to be particularly helpful for beginners, especially those who are comfortable with more linear approaches to assessment and treatment.

This text moves from theory to practice. It gives clear and basic information before going on to relate theory to technique in a very practical way. The author presents key ideas from a number of family therapy schools, most of which are, understandably, North American.

I found this book concise and easy to read, and would encourage aspiring family therapists and other mental health professionals to read it.

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Clinical Klein. By R. D. HINSHELWOOD. London: Free Association Books. 1994. 260 pp. £16.95 (pb).

This is the best introduction to Kleinian psychoanalysis and to the more recent developments since the foundations laid by Melanie Klein herself. Hinshelwood carefully explains each core concept, with clear clinical illustrations taken from a variety of Kleinian authors. He empathises with the reader who is new to this way of thinking, and attempts to elucidate some of the strange clinical phenomena and interpretations by means of familiar ideas and experiences. The reader will find a fuller examination and exploration of clinical illustrations and the assumptions behind the work than the original authors provided. There are substantial accounts of some of the ways of understanding schizophrenic processes, especially disturbances in the capacity to think, showing how these have led to a greater understanding of subtle disturbances of thought in less ill patients.

A central theme in the descriptions of contemporary Kleinian technique is that of emotional contact and emotional knowing – the patient's contact with the needy child self and the analyst's contact with the patient. Many examples are presented of patients who are dominated by life-denying organisations within the personality, where death is idealised as a solution to the pain of living. In these organisations of mind, truth itself is perverted so that the mind is poisoned by a proliferation of lies, and order is maintained through internal brutality and terror. As Hinshelwood states, "if ever an epitaph for Kleinian psychoanalysis has one day to be written, it will surely refer to the relentless hunting down of all the forms of destructiveness that so spoil the greatest human aspirations".

Hinshelwood manages to convey the remarkable creativity of Kleninian psychoanalysis, its exploration of obscure, primitive and complex states of mind, and the continuing development of the approach. The early emphasis on destructiveness at one time gave rise, in some instances, to a notoriously adversarial position between patient and analyst, but Hinshelwood describes how this is less the case currently, with more emphasis now upon the adversarial relationships *within* the patient. Close attention to the fine grain of