

Drug Problems in Britain: A Ten Year Survey. Edited by GRIFFITH EDWARDS and CAROL BUSCH. London: Academic Press. 1981. Pp 333. £14.80. \$36.00.

The last twenty years have seen a world-wide upsurge in the use of illicit drugs, a problem to which government agencies and health authorities have responded in a varied and empirical way. This book has two main purposes. Firstly, it reviews the British research literature on illicit drug abuse, focusing in particular on the years 1966 to 1976. Secondly, it examines how Britain has responded to this problem. There are thorough review papers on the historical aspects of drug abuse, national data collection and monitoring systems, epidemiological and clinical aspects, as well as an interesting chapter on aetiological theories. Papers also include legal and administrative problems and criminal involvement. The central theme is that government policy must be more closely informed than previously, and that this can best be achieved through a partnership between policy-making and the funding of appropriate research efforts.

The book is concise and well written. It is not intended to be a comprehensive overview of the topic of illicit drug abuse. It does not address itself to issues of basic science and biological aspects, but focuses on psychosocial, criminological, epidemiological and medical aspects in relation to policy formation. This work will be widely welcomed by social scientists, research workers, policy-makers and administrators.

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Addictive Behaviour and Its Treatment. By JESSE B. MILBY. New York: Springer. 1981. Pp 272. \$21.95.

This book is not merely a theoretical treatise on addictive behaviour, as the title would suggest, but is a rich guide to the clinical presentation and treatment of drug abuse. The emphasis is understandably upon narcotic addiction, but the author gives due weight to the other abused chemicals, stressing the current common clinical presentation of polydrug abuse. Those hoping to find within these pages information about alcohol addiction will be disappointed; that is not the intent of this book.

Professor Milby is a psychologist from the University of Alabama. As would therefore be expected, the content of his book is largely a review of current American thought and practice. This means that some of the material e.g. that relating to governmental

legally-enforced programmes, is of little practical relevance to non-American readers.

Milby's current research concerns the application of learning theory and behaviour therapy in the field of drug dependence. This is reflected in the review of theories of aetiology, where he includes an intriguing discussion on the role of conditioning factors in the development of tolerance. Despite this obvious area of interest, the book is admirably broad in its approach, covering psychological, physiological, pharmacological and sociocultural aspects of both aetiology and treatment.

As stated by the author, this book is written mainly for those unfamiliar with the realm of drug dependence. It is easy to read and would be of benefit mainly for the membership candidate. Its usefulness for the specialist psychiatrist is perhaps limited by one unfortunate feature: in the attempt to overview all aspects of this speciality, some areas, particularly those medical, are covered in such frugal detail that their inclusion is of dubious value.

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Behavioural Problems in Childhood: A Primary Care Approach. Edited by S. GABEL. London: Academic Press. 1981. Pp 447. £26.20. \$39.50.

This new book comes from North America. Dr Stewart Gabel is the director of a public health child development clinic. He has brought together contributions from more than twenty doctors and psychologists who mostly work in academic departments of paediatrics and/or psychiatry. They are of all degrees of seniority from Professor of Child Psychiatry down to Resident. The aim was to produce a textbook concerned with behaviour problems affecting children and adolescents which would be of use to general practitioners and community paediatricians.

The first seven chapters are concerned with evaluation and treatment. This section of the book is well-written. There is a useful list of screening questionnaires. The approach to treatment is behavioural. The next three chapters form a section of the book devoted to what are termed 'adjustment disorders'. It is difficult to see what purpose this section serves. It adds little to what is said before or after and could profitably have been omitted. The third and largest part of the book consists of 23 chapters concerned with a wide variety of childhood behaviour problems such as excessive crying in babies, feeding problems, soiling, wetting, abdominal pain, sleep disorders, tempers, overactivity, habits, school refusal, fears, anxiety, aggression, isolation, misery, conversion symptoms,