

interesting theory of attention, but are not yet able to come up with specific suggestions for rehabilitation. O'Conner and Cermak provide a useful account of the rehabilitation of memory disorders, and Anna Basso does the same for disorders of language. The last part of the book summarises what is actually being done in rehabilitation centres throughout the western world. Given all this activity I am sure there will be great advances in the neuropsychology of rehabilitation over the next ten years. This book has perhaps appeared prematurely.

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The Psychology of Child Firesetting: Detection and Intervention. By JESSICA GAYNOR and CHRIS HATCHER. New York: Brunner/Mazel. 1987. Pp 220. \$25.00.

Arson is one of the commoner serious and dangerous crimes in this country and the USA, where, surprisingly, a third of all fire-setting is by children. Certainly the incidence in the UK of fire, in particular school fires, set by children and teenagers has drastically increased since my book *Fire Raisers* was published ten years ago. It is, nevertheless, a common observation that virtually all children play with matches. How then does this relate to serious fire crime? Any study on the subject is clearly of great importance. The current book by two psychologists is of particular interest because it reports a long programme of work in co-operation with the San Francisco Fire Department.

There are two main sections: detection and intervention. The former is based on a predictive model suggesting that 'fire interest' is channelled, because of various psychosocial determinants, into the 'fire safe' or the 'fire risk' categories. There are many useful tabulations provided in this section of the psychological and physical characteristics of fire-setters, but it is a pity that more case material is not provided.

The great variety of intervention processes, psychotherapeutic and behavioural, that can be employed are described, both for the individual and the family, as well as methods of patient selection. Of considerable interest are community intervention methods with schoolchildren in different age groups. The approaches vary in different parts of the United States. In one the cost-effectiveness was assessed, but on the whole follow-up information is limited. The final chapter suggests the appropriate roles of various agencies and professionals involved, including the physician. Much useful help in a difficult field is provided by this reasonably priced book, but it is clear that more remains to be done, particularly in the evaluation of intervention methods.

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The Therapy of Pain (2nd ed.). Edited by MARK SWERDLOW. Lancaster: MTP Press. 1986. Pp 271. £32.95.

This is a second edition of a valuable textbook on pain management. It contains an update on the neurophysiological aspects of pain (Cervero) and there is a balanced and informative chapter on the role of the psychiatrist in the management of chronic pain (Pilowsky). Lipton and Swerdlow provide helpful and brief descriptions on the management of a pain relief centre and assessments of the pain patient. The chapter on pharmacological management of pain (Williams) provides practical advice for those interested in pain management. Unfortunately, however, there is an uncritical acceptance of treatments such as transcutaneous nerve stimulation, trigger point therapy, and biofeedback, none of which have been shown to be more valuable than the placebo in controlled studies. The chapter on non-invasive methods in pain relief accepts the value of these therapies without question (Mehta). The chapters on nerve blocking and neurosurgery for pain relief are well illustrated and helpful (Charlton and Hitchcock). Low backpain has been singled out for an independent chapter, and Porter's contribution provides sensible advice. The final chapter on oncological management is excellent (Saunders).

The quality of the book is good. I think it is a useful book for students and practitioners alike, but I would like to see more critical evaluation of therapies such as trigger point therapy, as there is a danger that they gain respectability without having been adequately tested.

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The Psychopharmacology and Treatment of Schizophrenia. Edited by P. B. BRADLEY and S. R. HIRSCH. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1986. Pp 457. £37.50.

Although some reference is made in this book to the social methods of management of schizophrenia the emphasis of the volume as a whole is very much towards drug treatment. One might imagine that a book of this size devoted to this topic would be inclined to be repetitious and would be covering a good deal of well-ploughed ground. The editors are to be congratulated on the fact that this is not the case. They have incorporated some unusual chapters, bringing together topics which are not often discussed, and the chapters which deal with well-known areas of work generally do so in a careful and informative way.

The opening chapter, on peripheral biochemistry, elegantly draws together a number of areas of work which are relatively unfashionable among clinicians and other scientists but some of which tend to come to the attention of sufferers and their relatives. Clinicians who