

following the intended closure of a London psychiatric hospital. New directions in pharmacology includes excellent chapters on drug-induced akathisia and tardive dyskinesia and new possibilities for drug treatment of schizophrenia. I especially enjoyed the final section on social aspects, in particular Falloon's chapter on family management of schizophrenia.

In common with other multi-authored books, a wide variation in writing styles gives the book a rather disjointed and lumpy feel, and in terms of layout, it is not particularly 'user-friendly'. Some of these problems could have been overcome by more imaginative and skilful editing. Overall, I found it rather heavy going and pedestrian in style, very much a book for reference purposes rather than bed-time reading. It is most suited for the postgraduate with a substantial baseline knowledge of the subject, and I would hesitate to recommend it, for example, to candidates preparing for the Membership exam.

Apart from a few niggling gripes, it tackles the various issues concerning the aetiology, diagnosis and management of schizophrenia in a business-like but uninspiring fashion. Unfortunately, the most entertaining aspect of the book for me was that the review copy I received had been produced with its cover on upside down and back to front!

ROBERT I. COHEN, *Consultant Psychiatrist in Adult Mental Illness, Hillingdon Hospital, Uxbridge, Middlesex*

Reconstructing Schizophrenia. Edited by RICHARD P. BENTALL. London: Routledge. 1990. 308 pp. £35.00.

After 100 years of research, the nature of schizophrenia remains as mysterious as ever. Since Bentall's preface promises a new approach to the problem, jaded students of schizophrenia will take up this book with hope. They will be disappointed. There is an echo of the swashbuckling '60s suggestion that schizophrenia is a myth used by wicked psychiatrists to control social undesirables (Marshall, Pilgrim). The echo is faint, because, after 'rigorous scrutiny', most of the contributors agree that there is a genetic basis for the disorder and that there is a place for the use of neuroleptic drugs. Given this admission, attacks on the biological approach to schizophrenia lose much of their force. Rather than saying that there is no biological basis for schizophrenia, the argument is that the biological approach has been exaggerated and that other factors have not been sufficiently examined. Schizophrenia research, they complain, has been too much dominated by psychiatry and the 'medical model'.

Many contributors seem to believe that accepting a biological basis implies that only biological treatments are useful. This is obviously not the case. Barham & Hayward, and Slade & Tarrier show how social and

psychological factors can be used to help schizophrenic patients. Of course, this does not reveal anything about the relevance of these factors to the fundamental nature of the disorder. Slade gets closer to fundamentals by relating his approaches to treatment to speculations about the cognitive basis of various symptoms. Ironically, he uses for this purpose the impeccably psychiatric framework developed by Peter Liddle.

The other critique presented in this book concerns the existence of the syndrome 'schizophrenia'. Boyle, Jackson & Bentall argue that the evidence for a unitary syndrome is very weak. Few would disagree with this. New diagnostic schemes and new subgroupings are continually being proposed and many psychiatrists are currently questioning Kraepelin's original formulation. The arguments will continue until the aetiology is fully unravelled. As an alternative to discrete syndromes, Venables & Claridge propose a dimensional approach. Bentall proposes that psychological mechanisms should be sought that relate to specific symptoms, rather than to 'schizophrenia', and presents some of his own work in this direction.

This book brings together critiques of, and approaches to, research on schizophrenia which have appeared before and are not going to cause a revolution. The student of schizophrenia will continue to feel jaded.

CHRIS FRITH, *MRC Scientist, Research Centre, Harrow*

Art Therapy in Practice. Edited by MARIAN LIEBERMANN. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers. 1990. 191 pp. £24.50 (hb), £9.95 (pb).

The contributors to this volume all work in the same geographical region and between them cover a wide variety of client groups; acute and long-term psychiatric patients, psychogeriatric patients, people with psychiatric problems with learning difficulties, children with psychological problems, offenders in the community and homeless people.

The variety of their clients is matched by the variety of ways in which they interpret the practice of art therapy. One could almost say that the methodology can stretch from therapy in which art forms the focus of the relationship either with the therapist or the group, to that in which the art itself becomes the therapy which is best left without the intervention of the therapist.

The most important message which is conveyed in this excellent collection lies in its demonstration of the way in which the art therapists have managed to extend their skills in the service of such a wide variety of human distress. It demonstrates the adventurous nature of art therapy which has refused to enclose itself into a rigid pattern of practice but has demonstrated the way in which it can be of value in the most unexpected situations.

It heralds a call to all art therapists to continue to accept any challenge while at the same time may help

others to consider its possibilities in fields where, up to now, it has not figured.

LOUIS MARTEAU, *Psychotherapist, Dymnna Centre, London*

MMPI-2 Assessing Personality and Psychotherapy. By JOHN R. GRAHAM. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1990. 335 pp. £27.50.

MMPI-2 in Psychological Treatment. By JAMES BUTCHER. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1990. 195 pp. £16.00.

The original Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI), claimed by both authors of these books to be the most widely used personality inventory, was first published more than 50 years ago. Over these years there have been a number of criticisms concerning the low reliability of the scales, their factorial structure, the fact that many of the items were out of date and the lack of any theoretical underpinning.

The MMPI-2 was developed to overcome some of these problems. These two books describe how this was done and discuss how the new test is to be used in clinical practice. Both authors are acknowledged as experts with the MMPI and were involved with the development of the new version. As might be expected, both books are authoritative. Together they provide all the information necessary to use the MMPI-2.

The new test differs from the old in the following ways. The standardisation sample is far larger and more representative. There can be no doubt that, in this respect, the new test is superior. Items were changed where necessary to improve their relevance, and new ones were written to extend the scope of the test. Some items which had proven objectionable were removed. This modified item pool was tried out and the best items were selected for the scales. Both authors insist that these modifications improve the test, but allow the new scales to be interpreted in the light of the vast research on the old form.

The items of the new scales certainly appear to be an improvement, although the internal consistency of the scales is still low. Only five have alphas above 0.7 and this is still far too low to be confident of the test scores. Similarly, the evidence for the validity of the new scales is far from convincing. For example, rating scales are used as a criterion for the scales' scores. However, the correlations reported are very low; the sample size was so huge that a non-significant correlation must have been hard to obtain. Furthermore, rating scales are somewhat similar to the items so that some overlap is inevitable.

These books are complementary rather than competitive. That by Graham gives all the information about the test which a user is likely to need and it serves

as a useful reference book. That by Butcher is more specialised, being concerned with the use of the MMPI-2 as a guide for treatment. However, although shorter, it contains a good description of MMPI-2.

In summary these are sound, authoritative books on the new MMPI-2. They are essential reading for anyone who intends to use the test. My disappointment with both of these books is that they are too uncritical, although I suppose that this is inevitable, given the involvement of their authors with the test.

PAUL KLINE, *Professor of Psychometrics, University of Exeter*

The Preschool Child: Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment. By PAUL V. TRAD. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons. 1989. 658 pp. £50.75.

This book sets out to provide an "integrated approach to the developmental phenomena that occur in children of preschool age" (2-6 years). It has five sections: the developmental perspective, assessment, clinical syndromes, specific risk factors during the preschool years, and management.

The orientation of the book is clearly North American, with the use of DSM-III-R terminology throughout. The text is liberally supported by references, including recently published work, and enlivened by case illustrations.

It is certainly comprehensive, covering not only a wide range of issues, but a wide range of childhood psychiatric conditions and approaches to treatment. As far as specific conditions are concerned, the author does not confine himself to those which occur only in the preschool child, and in discussing these conditions the book resembles a general textbook of child psychiatry. Nevertheless, a great deal of emphasis is placed on the developmental issues particularly associated with preschool children, with great emphasis on the role of play in both assessment and management. The author is clearly dynamically orientated in his approach to therapy, and the sections on behaviour therapy in particular do not do justice to the extent to which these methods are applicable to preschool problems.

Many British child psychiatrists will find some sections startling – for example, that on personality disorders in preschool children. Little attention is paid to prevention of problems in this age group.

This book is a valuable contribution to the currently available texts on child psychiatry as it succeeds in addressing many of the specific issues concerned with the assessment and management of preschool children with psychiatric problems.

GILLIAN FORREST, *Consultant Child Psychiatrist, The Park Hospital for Children, Oxford*