

a relative beginner to group work could use this book in order to enable themselves to tackle a wide range of children's problems with confidence. I was particularly pleased to read the helpful section on work with sexually abused younger children.

I found the book a pleasure to read. It is stimulating and helpful at the same time, and I would not hesitate to recommend it to anyone involved in, or contemplating, group work with young children.

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Psychopathology and Differential Diagnosis: A Primer. Volume 1. History of Psychopathology. By HENRY KELLERMAN and ANTHONY BURRY. New York: Columbia University Press. 1988. 270 pp. \$69.00.

This purports to be a history of our concepts of psychopathology. It is in fact 'psychopathology' used in a restricted sense, and 'history' limited to trace a rather narrow path. The book is divided into six parts. The first three – covering antiquity, the middle ages and the Renaissance and the modern world – are all explored with a view to demonstrating the antecedents to subsequent Freudian theory. Parts 4 and 5 are respectively on 'Nosological systems and the appearance of Sigmund Freud' and 'Typologies and followers of Freud'. The sixth part deals with contemporary views: ego psychology and object relations. There is no mention of the origins of psychopathological thinking propounded by Jaspers, Schneider, Husserl, or Sartre, and there is no working through of the immense importance that biological advances have had on the understanding of psychopathology. It is unfortunate that the authors' view of history is restricted by psychoanalytic spectacles which tend to refract ideas explained by ancient writers into shapes which they would hardly recognise themselves. For example, the authors claim that the Old Testament frequently alludes to epilepsy and depression; however, reference to neither could be found in a substantial concordance. This book largely succeeds in its intention of relating ancient concepts to psychoanalytical thinking, and right from the beginning it introduces psychoanalytic concepts to 'explain' earlier theories. It is unfortunate that past cultures are labelled as irrational and unscientific without any apparent attempt by the authors to try and get inside the culture and inside the minds of the proponents of ideas.

There are various important routes to psychopathology that have not received mention in this work. For example, the association made by ancient Greek writers between cerebro-spinal fluid, semen, and the life force would seem essential for the history of psychoanalytic concepts. The point made by Norman Cohn so eloquently in *Europe's Inner Demons* that the persecution of witches only occurred at the end of the middle ages

and in the early Renaissance period is missed by these authors, who ascribe the witch-hunt to medieval thinking. Unfortunately this history is excessively derivative, as there are only 17 references for the historical section and most of these are short historical summaries rather than original works. The history of psychopathology is a fascinating study. Unfortunately, this work will not answer most of the questions one would like to ask.

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Macmillan Dictionary of Psychology. By STUART SUTHERLAND. London: Macmillan. 1989. 491 pp. £29.95.

As Sutherland points out in his preface, psychology has become rife with complex concepts and technical terms. Nor is it free from the great importance of many other disciplines impinging on the science, such as sociology and neurochemistry. Reviewing such a comprehensive dictionary is never easy, because one is clearly limited in one's area of knowledge.

Having said this, I found this volume outstanding. It appears to cover all the major areas from the neurosciences, through mainstream psychology to psychoanalysis. It has a useful appendix providing diagrams of the brain, and throughout the text there are helpful illustrations. The definitions are helpful and clear, and Sutherland succeeds in giving more than definitions indicating also how concepts are used. The attention to detail is superb, and at times I found myself almost reading page for page. The problem here is that one is suddenly made aware of how much one does not know.

Although it is written for psychologists, this volume deserves to be found in any academic library. It will be extremely useful to psychiatrists as well as psychologists, and a paperback edition would certainly be worth personal purchase by students and practitioners alike.

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Psychology For Medicine. Edited by T. W. ROBBINS and P. J. COOPER. London: Edward Arnold. 1988. 310 pp. £11.95.

This book is based on the pre-clinical course in psychology for medical students at Cambridge. Although each chapter is written by a different author, it is carefully constructed and edited to produce a coherent work. Despite being pitched at an elementary level, the book is of the highest critical quality and, particularly in its later chapters which move towards clinical practice, does much to dispel common myths and loose thinking.