

minority of clients would always require special provision, especially those with challenging behaviour, and the authors indicate that services for these residents should be given a higher profile.

Allen, Pahl and Quine are careful not to devalue the importance of the staff working in the hospitals. The book sees their futures as inextricable from community care. The authors also wisely conclude that for the hospitals the role of senior managers in villa management and staff motivation will become increasingly demanding as the service contracts. "We feel that it is especially important that their long-term commitment to the client group and their obvious advocacy of alternative forms of care should be recognised and understood by those seeking their cooperation in the development of these new forms of care". At present, there is still no unified training that crosses the boundary of social work and nursing expertise; there is no single specialist modification. The authors also identified a need for some qualification of normalisation theory. Notwithstanding, normalisation is a basic component in any induction training, much time is wasted in ideological disputes over interpretation. The complexities of the 1990s require a sophisticated interpretation of this theory.

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Counselling and Communication in Health Care. Edited by HILTON DAVIS and LESLEY FALLOWFIELD. Chichester: John Wiley. 1991. 358 pp. £15.95.

This book is intended for health care professionals working in medical settings, aiming to convey an understanding of how distress can arise from both physical and psychological causes, and how this distress can be helped through more effective ways of talking and counselling. To this end, the contributors marshal the available research evidence and outline helping strategies in their areas of interest. The book has three sections. The first examines a variety of theoretical approaches to counselling and reviews the current research literature on counselling in health care. A second section focuses on specialist areas of health care, including work with sufferers from diabetes, renal failure, cancer, and heart disease, and children with disabilities, and in a variety of settings, including general practice, paediatrics and neonatal intensive care. A final section discusses the evaluation of counselling in health care settings and training and organisational issues.

This book provides useful information for those who wish to create a more concerned, less dehumanising type of health care. If I have one criticism of it, it is that, paradoxically, the individual is largely absent from a book which is clearly intended as a 'scientific' textbook, meant to persuade on the basis of a presentation of

evidence and theory. I found myself longing for case examples which would persuade and convince on a different level, and I think the book could have usefully used this type of material. I am sure that the editors are right, also, in pointing to the influence of the institutional ethos as a potential inhibitor of the development of concerned and communicative attitudes on a personal level, but the limited space they give to these issues does not allow them to deal fully with the complexity of this subject, which is of major importance for the successful implementation of the work covered by this book. However, this text is one of the best in its field, and will be a useful source for anyone interested in current approaches to counselling in health care.

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Medical Choices, Medical Chances (2nd edition). By HAROLD J. BURSZTAJN, RICHARD I. FEINBLOOM, ROBERT M. HAMM and ARCHIE BRODSKY, with a new preface by HILARY PUTNAM. London: Routledge. 1990. 454 pp. £12.99.

Believe it or not, most doctors still believe that explanatory models applied to billiard balls can readily be applied to patients. These crazed individuals in sombre suits think that there is no difference between a heart and a water pump and a brain and a microcomputer. They forget that even in 1991 some people still have families, that how a patient feels is more important than how a doctor feels, and that when you observe the actions or even the symptoms of a patient, the very act of observation might be affecting that which you are observing.

Difficult and ground-breaking stuff, but have no fear – all can be understood by making the intellectual leap from a human being to a subatomic particle. Out go dreary Newtonian physics, Freud's hydrostatics and Mesmer's magnetism. Libido may have been rather like water but people are actually not unlike photons. In what seems to be a rather polemical text, these authors, with little reference to the philosophy of science, systems theory and all the arguments about explanation and understanding that have so fascinated psychiatrists, embrace with special relish two important principles of modern physics and quantum mechanics – the probabilistic paradigm and the uncertainty principle.

The book then proceeds rather like a morality play in which dark, evil, cold, mechanistic doctors are contrasted with kind, sympathetic doctors who explain to distressed old ladies that this injection might hurt or that this brain scan might or might not be worth all the time, trouble and expense because it might not find the cause of the illness.

The contrasts between the 'baddies' who do not talk to relatives and cannot bear not to always know the

answer, and the 'goodies' who are not afraid of uncertainty and gambling, are laboured at length in long case histories and the same points seem to be made over and over again.

This battle has surely now been fought and won, and only the most reactionary would still seek to contest the central issues here. I fear this book just does not deliver enough new material or intellectual sophistication to justify its place in a psychiatrist's library, and even the probabilistic paradigm does not lessen my opinion on this issue – but then maybe I just cannot bear doubt.

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Schizophrenia Research. Advances in Neuropsychiatry and Psychopharmacology Volume 1. Edited by C. A. TAMMINGA and C. S. SCHULZ. New York: Raven Press. 1991. 391 pp. \$150.00.

In their preface, the editors of this book state that the goal of the volume is to facilitate the application of current neuroscience and psychosocial knowledge and techniques to schizophrenia research. They say that their intention was to reflect the current status of scientific information in several areas in this field which represent the best in scientific direction and discoveries, and not to provide a comprehensive review of the generality of research in schizophrenia. They have succeeded in these aims. This book is interesting and exciting. It provides new data about experiments which are at the very forefront of research in this field, and it offers reviews of issues which are highly relevant but which are probably not familiar to those who are not working in these particular areas themselves.

The section on the biochemistry of schizophrenia contains chapters on the biochemical characterisation of D₁ and D₂ dopamine receptors, phencyclidine NMDA receptor interaction, a review of genetic linkage studies of schizophrenia, an account of the difficulties of assessing gene expression, and a description of experiments concerning molecular approaches to neuroleptic action. All of these are interesting, as indeed are the six sections on the neurobiology and physiology of schizophrenia. These include an account of the neuroplasticity of mesoencephalic dopamine neurons at network and receptor level, a review of the relevance of neuropeptides for schizophrenia, and chapters on the limbic system and neuropharmacological techniques in the molecular biology of schizophrenia.

This section is followed by five chapters on behaviour and schizophrenia which include accounts of the currently important issue of the neuropsychology of schizophrenia and a fascinating animal model for childhood autism. The excellent chapter on stress and schizophrenia provides experimental data showing the effects of stress in a subgroup of schizophrenic patients,

and suggests hypotheses of the neurochemical basis of pharmacological methods of its management.

The later sections of the book concern the issue of defining the boundaries of schizophrenia (where the importance of this area of work for genetic studies receives appropriate emphasis), psychosocial treatments, and pharmacological treatments. The psychosocial treatment chapters review the area fully and describe ongoing experiments which are of considerable interest. The chapters on pharmacological treatments describe the results of treatment trials of some atypical psychotics and also offer accounts of studies of non-compliance with neuroleptic treatment, and of the effects of various neuroleptics upon indices of neurotransmission.

This would be a worthwhile purchase for those who are actively engaged in schizophrenia research. The creative ideas described here will suggest new avenues of inquiry. The book will be less useful as a reference work for a library. The experiments described are often incomplete and the experience of 100 years of study of the disorder Kraepelin described as dementia praecox suggests that many areas of research will not fulfil their early promise.

This volume will date rapidly, but for reading in 1992 and perhaps even 1993, it can be highly recommended.

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Current and Future Trends in Anticonvulsant, Anxiety and Stroke Therapy: Progress in Clinical and Biological Research, Volume 361. Edited by BRIAN MELDRUM and MICHAEL WILLIAMS. New York: Wiley-Liss Ltd. 1990. 555 pp. US\$142.00.

This multiauthor text is the edited proceedings of a symposium held in America in 1988 focusing on new areas of central nervous system drug development. It is this drug development theme which ties together the otherwise rather disparate areas of epilepsy, anxiety and stroke therapy. Over two-thirds of the contributors work within the pharmaceutical industry. Most chapters are orientated towards basic science, and much of the content relates to receptor and transmitter pharmacology. The clinical content is only such as to provide background information for the non-clinical research worker.

Each therapeutic area forms one section of the book. Within each section, the chapters are, by and large, authoritative and interesting, and overall the book gives a good account of current research thinking in these therapeutic areas. The anxiety section also includes chapters on obsessive-compulsive disorder and on antiaggressive drugs which have been dubbed 'serenics'. The section on new drug treatment approaches to cerebral ischaemia and trauma is an interesting read for psychopharmacologists who may not have kept up to