

into the clinical field, and equally essential that relevant clinical questions be fed back to the research teams.

This book would be a useful addition to a child psychiatric library.

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Models for Mental Disorder: Conceptual Models in Psychiatry. By PETER TYRER and DEREK STEINBERG. Chichester: John Wiley. 1987. 118 pp. £6.95.

The authors have tried to draw together the various ways of conceptualising mental disorder. They identify a disease model, psychodynamic model, behavioural model, and social (environmental) model, and give an account of the advantages of each. They then describe their solution to the limitations of using only one of these models by means of their 'correlative model'. This 'eclectic's charter', as they put it, allows each of the four models to be used sequentially, or perhaps together, so as to obtain the fullest understanding of the person's difficulties and then the best therapeutic methods to employ.

The descriptions of the models, illustrated by Steinberg's engaging drawings, are clinically based and can help the student, confused by abstract and sometimes acrimonious talk of rival theories, to understand what these different approaches have to offer. The book is written in plain language, yet is detailed enough to be useful to students and postgraduates in medicine and the social sciences.

It is a valuable book in that it indicates that there is no essential incompatibility between the models, merely that they have their uses at different times and in different clinical situations. What matters is that clinicians know in which conceptual framework they are working at any given time, and that they do not allow themselves to believe that any one model contains the whole truth.

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Brain Systems Disorders and Psychotropic Drugs. By HEATHER ASHTON. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1987. 547 pp. £40.00.

In the preface the author rightly chides those who prescribe psychotropic drugs and yet fail to appreciate the underlying brain systems on which they act. What follows is a valuable account of just those systems. There are five main divisions: the first three concern arousal and sleep, reward and punishment, and learning and memory, and then follow two sections on psychiatric disorders, one concerning mania and depression, the other schizophrenia. For each the anatomical, physiological, and biochemical/transmitter substrate is elucidated, followed by a discussion of the drugs that act on

the structures in question. In the case of the 'reward and punishment', for example, alcohol and illicit compounds that have an effect are also discussed. It is pointed out that some compounds act on only one transmitter system and others have multiple effects. The author appreciates that here, as elsewhere, there is overlap and interaction, but as the book was first conceived as a teaching vehicle for undergraduates this is acceptable. What emerges, however, is a well-written book of appropriate length with 86 pages of bibliography, useful for a much wider audience. All practising psychiatrists can read it with profit, and it is a good reference book. Sadly, it may be too expensive for all those who would benefit. Arm-twisting of librarians is suggested!

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Child Psychiatry: A Developmental Approach. By PHILIP GRAHAM. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1986. 463 pp. £25.00 (hb), £12.50 (pb).

When I received this book, I must admit my initial reaction was: "Do we really need another introductory text in child psychiatry?" (thinking of the contributions made by Michael Rutter, Sula Wolff, Helen Connell, and most of all Philip Barker, whose "*Basic Child Psychiatry*" is now in its fourth edition). Graham states in his preface that he intends the book to be of use to all doctors dealing with children and their families, but especially to paediatricians and psychiatrists in training, and it seems to me that this goal is admirably realised. It is laid out in a comprehensive and systematic way, and the style is clear, pragmatic, and wholly readable.

In keeping with the subtitle (*'A developmental approach'*), the largest section of the book deals chronologically with various aspects of development: pregnancy, delivery and the neonatal period, feeding and growth, the development of social relationships, etc. There are sixteen different sections, each beginning with a review of the normal and moving on to separately headed topics or problems. Thus, the section on emotional development includes school refusal, depressive disorders, and suicide and attempted suicide, and that on sexual development includes anomalies of gender role and sexual behaviour, and pregnancy in schoolgirls. The first three chapters of the book are concerned with an overview of the subject, including classification (both the ICD-9 and DSM-III multiaxial approaches) and prevalence of psychological problems, the principles of assessment, and a review of family influences and parenting disturbances. The long chapter on development is followed by a fairly short one on specific psychiatric syndromes, picking out psychotic, hysterical, and obsessional disorders. In some respects, this seems the least satisfactory section of the book. It is oddly placed, and these particular diagnostic categories

may seem to have been chosen rather arbitrarily to non-psychiatrist readers. It might have been illuminating to introduce the chapter by emphasising that these are often disabling conditions and more narrowly the province of psychiatrists than of similar other professionals.

There follow two chapters on psychosocial aspects of physical disorders, which should be particularly helpful to trainees without paediatric experience. The first and shorter of these is on general issues, such as hospitalisation and the care of the dying child; the second goes systematically through the range of specific physical conditions. The eighth chapter covers treatment approaches briefly but clearly, and it is here that the only illustrative case descriptions in the book are to be found. (It is of some comfort too that not all the cases described were unqualified therapeutic successes!).

Next comes a helpful chapter on children's services in general, clarifying the inter-relationships between different professionals and their services and pointing up the similarities and differences and the areas of overlap. The last, all too brief, chapter is on prevention. Each chapter ends with a short list of suggestions for further reading and there is a comprehensive (over thirty pages) reference list at the end of the book.

This is a splendid but very down-to-earth introductory text which, in spite of my initial reservations, I must agree fulfils the specific need identified by its author. I have already taken the opportunity of recommending it wholeheartedly to different groups of community physicians and GP trainees to whom I have lectured recently.

PATRICIA AINSWORTH, *Lecturer in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Manchester*

Object Relations, the Self, and the Group: A Conceptual Paradigm. By CHARLES ASHBACH and VICTOR L. SCHERMER. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1987. 313 pp. £25.00.

The authors of this book have tried to create a synthesis between individual and group therapy. Psychoanalysis was originally only concerned with the structure of the psyche and its disturbances, and many psychoanalysts have remained sceptical of the attempts of group therapy to treat people within and as a group. On the other hand, Foulkes, the originator of group analysis in this country, after recommending a combination of individual and group therapy in the beginning, emphasised in his later writings the capacity of group analysis to deal with most kinds of disturbance. In this way, the gap between two approaches grew.

More recent developments within psychoanalysis focused on the inter-psychic elements in human growth. Object relations theory and self psychology see the interaction between mother and child as crucial for the child's development. One could say that already mother

and child form a sort of mini-group with its own kind of dynamics. At this point the barrier between the intra-psychic and the inter-psychic breaks down, and the way is open for an attempt to relate individual and group therapy to each other.

Within group therapy the authors distinguish between three 'systems': the intra-psychic, the interactive (the relationship between the individual group members) and the group-qua-group. All three systems interact with each other in a great many different ways, and these are plotted in great detail in a 'group analytic grid'. It is impossible to do justice in a short review to this fundamental and scholarly contribution to an important area of theory and practice.

HANS W. COHN, *Group-Analytic Society, London*

Criminal Law and Psychiatry. By D. POWER and D. H. D. SELWOOD. London: Kluwer Law Publishers. 1987. 265 pp. £50.00.

Power is a former senior prison medical officer, and Selwood a member of the army legal service and a crown court recorder. The main part of the book comprises a number of chapters on the association between crime and sexual deviation, psychosis, psychoneurosis, mental impairment, and psychopathy. It opens with a clear account of the elements of crime, a section on the law of homicide, and a description of exemptions from criminal responsibility. The first chapter concludes with a discussion on chromosomes, which is both misplaced and has paragraphs of the text transposed. The references to the chapter on young offenders have been omitted altogether.

Other chapters which discuss social factors in crime, young offenders, and illicit drug-taking are notable for the authors' anecdotal style and dubious moral judgements. The references are almost wholly out-dated: for example, the major studies on psychosis and crime, and on delinquency, are completely ignored.

The book is overly concerned with the bureaucracy which prison medical officers suffer, and the final chapter on military psychiatry involves such unlikely bedfellows as indoctrination, brainwashing, battle fatigue, exhaustion, assassination, and urban guerilla warfare.

Pages 21-26 contain numerous errors. The prosecution cannot accept "strong evidence" of unfitness to plead, since the matter is always decided by a jury. The authors state that restriction orders are always added to hospital orders in homicide cases and that these Section 37/41 Mental Health Act 1983 cases go to special hospitals. Both assertions are incorrect.

Page 23 refers to "mental responsibilities" where it should read "responsibility". On the same page it states that three persons were tried for murder in 1963, whereas the actual figure is nearer 300. The reference to "statistics for England and Wales" should read "Criminal