

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

would like a convenient source of references in order that they may present concerned individuals with facts regarding zinc and magnesium metabolism, prostaglandins, and gluten sensitivity in relation to schizophrenia need to look no further. The chapter on the pharmacology of antipsychotic drugs is accurate, informative, and well referenced, as indeed are those on animal models, applied clinical pharmacology, and neurotransmitter hypotheses of schizophrenia. The case for the use of animal models in psychiatric disorders is made so persuasively that it must convince all but the most cynical of clinicians.

These chapters are followed by a series of competent and useful essays on clinical issues relating to the study of schizophrenia; these include diagnosis, the influence of social factors, and rating scales which may be used in schizophrenia. The chapter on the difficult issue of essential elements in the design of clinical trials is particularly well done. The thoughtful and well organised chapter on the evaluation of social functioning covers areas which are not often addressed in this careful style. The long chapters on the clinical treatment of schizophrenia and untoward effects of antipsychotic drugs cover the issues clearly and comprehensively, and the section on extrapyramidal movement disorders produced by antipsychotic drugs is very good indeed. In spite of the fact that this book concerns areas of work with which I am very familiar it was interesting and informative and I enjoyed it. It is a well-written account of the current state of knowledge of the psychopharmacology and drug treatment of schizophrenia and will be useful to trainees in psychiatry and to established clinicians.

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Can Schizophrenia be Localised in the Brain? Edited by NANCY ANDREASEN. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1986. Pp 87. £15.00.

This small volume contains the papers presented at a symposium at the American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting. In such symposia it is appropriate to make the best of one's data and to present one's case with force and conviction. The case is after all open to argument from the floor. The papers presented here must have been very successful in that situation, and Andreasen in particular develops her argument with considerable finesse.

As a written text, however, these papers have shortcomings. Most of them have been written to make conflicting cases in a way that could provoke discussion, and I am sure the authors would not claim that they have attempted a balanced or complete review of the relevant literature. This is a style which promotes lively

controversy at a meeting and which may be appropriate enough in a paper published in a journal with an active correspondence column, but it is less suitable in book form. There is no opportunity for the more argumentative reader to ask how the authors take account of the work of X, Y, and Z, or in what way the data in some of the papers cited really support the case that is made.

The last paper, by A. M. and M. A. Reveley, differs from the others. It is written in a considered and understated style which most readers will find more familiar and certainly less abrasive. The fact that the provocative quality of the other papers raises so many questions in the reader's mind may, however, be a virtue in itself. This book may raise the interest of psychiatric trainees, but it will not give them a clear view of the current state of knowledge in the field.

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Expressed Emotion in Families. By JULLIAN LEFF and CHRISTINE VAUGHN. New York: Guilford Press. 1985. Pp 241. £19.95.

The scientific approach to the study of environmental influences on the course of mental disorders has seldom been applied with the rigour expounded in Leff and Vaughan's book on 'expressed emotion'. To date more than 10 published studies have replicated the finding that the quality of the social environment in which a person lives is the best single predictor of the short-term course of schizophrenia. George Brown's remarkable first person account of the development of the 'expressed emotion' concept from 1956 to the early 1970s provides a fascinating commentary on the manner in which an intuitive experience of sensing a tense household atmosphere was eventually quantified into a highly reliable measure. The surprise and scepticism he felt on finding that this factor proved such a robust prognostic indicator has been experienced by many since.

Brown's work has been refined in the past decade. Detailed accounts of these refinements are described in the remainder of the volume. The landmark 1976 study, the London and Californian replications, and early family intervention studies are included. Although much of this material has been published in scientific journals, this book provides many additional details that will undoubtedly stimulate at least another decade of 'expressed emotion' studies.

The significance of this body of work is such that this book should be essential reading for every mental health professional and student of the social sciences.

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