

encounter in patients whom they may be seeing for related disorders. The book may therefore be of great value to anyone wishing to obtain some knowledge about current thinking about the organic basis, complex pathophysiology or treatment of these difficult disturbances. Individual papers are by authors actively engaged in research in these fields, and in general have a broad approach to their topic. From study of the summary sections, which presumably include the editors' understanding of the disorder as well as a consensus view of a meeting of the world's experts, one can obtain quite a comprehensive grasp of these formidable problems for a very modest price.

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**Handbook of Psychiatric Differential Diagnosis.** Edited by S. M. SOREFF and G. N. MCNEILL. Massachusetts: PSG Publishing Company. 1987. 426 pp. \$25.00.

A great deal of useful information is packed into this compact volume. Its authors aimed to write a book which "offers a method to determine a diagnosis starting with the presenting symptom." It is designed to be read by both psychiatrist and physician, both of whom should be aware that a presenting symptom such as depression may signify underlying physical illness or a psychological disorder, or both. In setting themselves a mammoth descriptive task the authors acknowledge that the discussions of organic disease may fall short of those required by a physician and that the descriptions of psychiatric illness are certainly flimsier than would generally satisfy a psychiatrist. However, they do not pretend to have produced a comprehensive text. It is certainly refreshing to find a book which approaches liaison psychiatry from the perspective of the patient's symptoms rather than the way most other books are arranged, with e.g. 'psychiatric complications of thyroid disease', which may manifest itself in a number of different syndromes.

Eleven chapters deal with the symptoms of anxiety, depression, psychosis, hallucinations, somatisation, eating problems, sleep disturbances, paranoia, non-psychotic distortions of reality, suicide, and violence. Each chapter deals with the features of the symptom before going on to systematically describe its pathogenesis and differential diagnosis. Unfortunately, the chapter on suicide does not clearly distinguish suicide and deliberate self-harm and so would be of limited value to the physician in assessing this common indication for a liaison referral. The non-psychiatrist would also be helped by a clear glossary of the psychiatric terms used in the text.

I suspect that this book will be of most value to the psychiatrist engaged in liaison work in general medical

settings, and as such it provides a useful if expensive pocket-sized addition to the larger textbooks on the subject.

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**A Handbook for Trainee Psychiatrists.** Edited by KEITH J. B. RIX. London: Bailliere Tindall. 1987. 301 pp. £8.50.

Most standard psychiatric texts do not cover large areas of the trainee's everyday work. This handbook successfully rectifies this omission and contains three main sections. The first deals with the junior psychiatrist's work with fellow professionals, on the wards, in the day hospital, with out-patients, with relatives, and when on duty out of hours. Emphasis is given to making the most of rotational training schemes, developing interviewing skills, presenting formulations, and writing case summaries. Other chapters stress the importance of the mental state and physical examinations, although the chapter on investigations suggests that many should be "routine" – I would think there are few who would agree with this point of view.

The second section of the book is shorter and deals in a straightforward way with various aspects of psychiatric treatment. The third section covers a number of interesting topics: patients from different cultures, court reports, research projects, committees, North American psychiatry, and the MRCPsych examination. The chapter on mental health law is mostly couched in practical terms, although it does occasionally lapse into complicated jargon. Even so, the book is overall an excellent and illuminating read and a must for those either contemplating or establishing a career in psychiatry.

J. J. HART, *Senior Registrar, Department of Psychiatry, The London Hospital*

**People with Mental Handicap: Perspectives on Intellectual Disability.** By J. HATTERSLEY, G. P. HOSKING, D. MORROW and M. MYERS. London: Faber and Faber. 1987. 246 pp. £5.95, US \$8.95, Canada \$14.95.

Any student wishing to carry out a small research project in the field of mental handicap would be well advised to look at textbooks. Many of those designed for doctors in training are narrow in scope and short in substance. Many of those written for teachers and social workers are narrow in their own, different ways. The common subject of their concerns – people with mental handicaps – must appear as almost different species to the various groups of workers. Small wonder, then, if there are misunderstandings between disciplines over service planning and even individual case-management.

I picked up this book with high expectations: it is written by a multi-disciplinary team from the same city, well produced, and modestly priced. Sadly, my hopes were only partly fulfilled. Too many of the contributions read like a personal wander through the chosen area, with little awareness of what is going on and less about what might be about to happen. Several appear to have been written several years ago. There is a marked absence of examples of good practice, and very little or no account of developments outside Britain. Suggestions for further reading are sparse. Presumably the book is aimed at workers who want to develop an awareness of aspects of the subject beyond their own discipline. This book makes a worthy start in that direction, but there is plenty of room for improvement. I look forward to the second edition.

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**The Suppressed Madness of Sane Men.** By MARION MILNER. London: Tavistock Publications. 1987. 309 pp. £35.00(hb), £14.95 (pb).

This splendid book is number 3 in the *New Library of Psychoanalysis*, edited by David Tuckett and published in association with the Institute of Psychoanalysis, London. It consists of the collected psychoanalytical papers, modified and with additional comments, of one of the truly independent British analysts – independent in the sense of belonging to those British psychoanalysts not drawn into the historic sub-grouping between the ‘traditionalists’ loyal to Anna Freud and the ‘revolutionaries’ who backed the new orthodoxy forming on the basis of Melanie Klein’s ideas in the 1930s and 40s, but also independent in her originality. From her early interests in education and creativity before coming to psychoanalysis, experimenting in diary writing, introspection, and attention, and the problems of “not being able to paint” (the title of a fascinating book she published in 1950), we can see her originality and preparedness for new perceptions. Her mistrust of the stultifying effect of technical language makes the book very compelling to read, and the beautiful pictures by herself, her patients, and William Blake illustrate her trust in thinking in visual images. What she has learnt will help us with understanding primitive disorders of the “self in relation to others”, so-called borderline and narcissistic states, and “false selves”, particularly in apparently successful people with damaged and autistic cores to their personalities – the “suppressed madness of sane men” of the title, taken from an essay by Santayana. Perhaps even more importantly, she will help us to trust the primitive and body-rooted aspects of ourselves and our patients for their creative potentiality.

The book is truly refreshing, full of candid doubts and insights. Because the book describes Marion Milner’s

personal odyssey, and being a collection of papers, it is inevitably repetitive at times, emphasising her preoccupations and their development – the relationship of subjective and objective, states of bodily awareness, the value of blankness and absent-mindedness to discover and create, etc. This repetitiveness actually deepens our understanding of her life and her contribution.

All who want to understand these areas of ourselves and our patients will learn from Milner’s work – not only psychotherapists, psychiatrists, and psychiatric nurses, but occupational therapists and art therapists and psychologists; she has had a special interest, described in the early chapters, in linking psychoanalytical understanding with general psychology. Much of what she has written throughout the book can be seen as discovering and learning to trust what some people now speak of as the prelogical and analogical right hemisphere functions of the mind. This book will be a valuable addition to a truly independent and creative psychiatric library.

DENNIS BROWN, *Group Analytic Practice, lately Consultant Psychotherapist, St Mary’s Hospital, London*

**The Divorce Process: A Handbook for Clinicians.** Edited by CRAIG A. EVERETT. New York: The Haworth Press. 1987. 261 pp. \$32.95.

In his introduction to this book, Everett suggests that to call it a “handbook” may be a misnomer. I would agree, if by this he means to imply that rather than drawing familiar themes together, it is more an *introduction* to a growing body of specialised practice in the area of divorce.

Included are 17 papers, from no less than 41 authors/practitioners, organised into six clearly titled sections. These range in focus and include the divorcing adults, issues relating to children of divorced couples, reconstituted families, and group treatment models for specific sections of the divorce-affected population.

The underlying and connecting threads are obvious and worth emphasising: the incidences of divorce and subsequent remarriage are now very prevalent. Clinicians in most of the helping professions are consequently bound to encounter divorce-related difficulties; we are called to consider both the pathology which can be presented as a result of marital breakdown, and the special but not necessarily pathological circumstances which are part and parcel of re-marriage and the varied family groupings which result. In other words, the contributors to this work describe the shape of remarriages and re-constituted families from a perspective which emphasises the positives rather than concentrating on the failure of the first marriage as the definitive issue.

This seemed a worthwhile ‘normalising’ impetus to pursue. However, although certainly not absent, what remained underdeveloped in this book were thoughts