

(leading to anger), and the relevance of good versus poor imagery in the development of phobias. Other interesting chapters present evidence that the frontal region of the left hemisphere is concerned with pleasant emotions, that an abundance of positive emotions facilitates the development of altruism, and that hypnotically induced emotion can influence learning and memory.

There is a wealth of important material in this book, but it is difficult to find, being hidden in some very long and detailed accounts of research. The editors provide an introductory chapter which is little more than a non-evaluative overview. It would have helped to give more of a commentary on each chapter, drawing attention to the highlights or, at least, to have drawn together the important advances in a concluding chapter. Because this has not been done, my impression is that few people will take the trouble to sift carefully through this book which can reveal some fascinating insights into the ways that children develop.

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Theory and Treatment of Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia: Biomedical, Sociocultural, and Psychological Perspectives. Edited by STEVEN WILEY EMMETT. New York: Brunner/Mazel, 1985. Pp. 332. \$30.00.

This is an American compilation issue. It consists of 17 chapters by authors of a wide variety of professional backgrounds put together by a minister of the church who is also a psychotherapist specialising in the treatment of eating disorders. The volume is divided into three sections which cover biomedical, sociocultural and psychological perspectives of anorexia nervosa and bulimia followed by a concluding section.

The quality is very uneven and mixed. Some chapters, notably those by Spack on Medical Complications of Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia and the one by Copeland on Neuroendocrine Aspects of Eating Disorders, provide detailed and comprehensive reviews of the literature in these areas. Others are much more personal and reflect the viewpoint of the author; for example, Orbach's interesting chapter giving a feminist perspective of anorexia nervosa and White Jr.'s chapter on intervention strategies and outcome considerations give synopses of their work.

The book contains a great deal of information but unfortunately it is not presented in an orderly way and therefore does not hang well together. A fundamental fault is the failure to provide definitions for the terms 'anorexia nervosa' and 'bulimia' and it is by no means certain that each author utilises the same diagnostic criteria. Indeed, several chapters do not attempt to distinguish these conditions.

Although the label bulimia nervosa was originally coined to describe a variant of anorexia nervosa, the diagnosis has established itself as a distinct disorder. Some patients have a past history of anorexia nervosa and others do not. There still remains considerable confusion and uncertainty concerning the most appropriate diagnostic label to attach to those patients who have suffered from anorexia nervosa and who binge and vomit, especially if

their weight approaches the average range. It is therefore of the greatest importance to clarify the diagnostic criteria in respect of bulimia nervosa and anorexia nervosa if the results of research in these areas are to produce fruitful distinctions. Unfortunately this book has fudged this clarification of such a fundamental issue although it contains a range of interesting perspectives.

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Literature and Medicine. Vol. 4. Psychiatry and Literature.

By PETER W. GRAHAM. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985. Pp. 173. Subscription: \$12.95 (individual), \$25.00 (institutions).

"Our criticisms, from age to age, reflect the things that the age demands". The application of T. S. Eliot's dictum to this collection suggests a demand for rather stodgy fare.

This volume consists of a series of disparate essays, on the broad theme of the connection between psychiatry and literature; and in particular between "madness" and authorship. It gets off to a bad start with a contribution by Thomas Szasz, the originator of 'Conventional Western Psychiatry' – the good commercial guys wearing pale hats and the bad institutional guys wearing dark ones. The bullets duly whistle past and through the dummies stuffed with false antitheses, but no real blood is drawn and our hero, I fear, will live to make many more 'B' movies.

There follow several studies of individual authors: Holderlin, Ezra Pound, Hayden Carruth, Hilda Doolittle and Mary Kempe. In so far as they bring out some obscure authors for occasional inspection, these essays are valuable, but they are written in the solemn Eng. Lit. style, as if Academe was breathing in the vast thick pants of expiring PhD theses. There is the occasional stimulus of disagreement. The essay on Pound quotes one of his beautiful and allusive translations of oriental lyrics—*The Jewel Stairs' Grievance*. It is condensed and impressionistic. The critic concludes, from the fact that 'it refuses to advertise its meaning', that 'it is a poem of and for a paranoiac mind'. Well really! This clumsy *Malleus Poetorum* would strike down a whole bookshelf of poets, including our own genial Will Shakespeare himself.

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Mind and Body: The Psychology of Physical Illness. By STEPHEN A. GREEN. Washington: American Psychiatric Press, 1985. Pp. 205. \$22.50.

The author's aim is commendable: "Proper medical treatment requires an understanding of what illness means to a particular individual at a particular time in his life. This . . . requires listening to patients and understanding what they communicate in words and by their silence. This book is designed as a framework for achieving such an understanding." Central to the approach adopted by Dr Green is his belief that abnormal psychological responses occur when the patient is unable to grieve effectively the losses incurred by ill-health. That theme is discussed at length. In