

available there. More information on the newer 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT) specific drugs could be provided as well as on lofepramine. In addition, data on relative risk in overdose might be of value. In the "Psychoses" chapter sulphiride is not mentioned, nor is there a detailed 'database' for any depot preparation. In chapter four on "Anxiety and insomnia" propranolol and barbiturates should perhaps be awarded more space and in chapter six on "Substance abuse" the pharmacology of alcohol itself is not covered. Also missing is a chapter on epilepsy which would be of value to most psychiatrists.

Overall, then, a useful book for the shelf of the consultant and helpful for the trainee. While the subject matter may not be immediately attractive, it is important, and if the psychiatrist on the mental health team does not understand drug pharmacology, who is going to? This book provides a reasonably easy access to the necessary information. Unfortunately it is a little spoilt by some of the omissions, but aside from these it seems fairly complete.

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Clinical Pharmacology in Psychiatry from Molecular Studies to Clinical Reality. Edited by S. G. DHAL and L. F. GRAM. 1989. 330 pp. DM98.00.

This volume is a collection of papers presented at an international meeting held in Norway in 1988. As such the chapters are very heterogeneous. Although of a high quality, the immediate relevance to clinical psychiatry is not great. The subject matter ranges from the classification of receptors, through the genetics of drug metabolism, to drug level monitoring.

There is a useful chapter on drugs affecting D1 and D2 receptors; evidence is now emerging that D1 receptor blockade is important in the action of some drugs such as clozapine and the thioxanthenes.

A chapter on meta-analysis suggests that serotonin-specific reuptake blockers are less effective as antidepressants than some older tricyclics.

Several chapters are concerned with individual variations in drug metabolism. In particular, hydroxylation measured by debrisoquine metabolism is deficient in 5% to 10% of Caucasians; these individuals develop higher than expected blood levels of many tricyclic antidepressants and some phenothiazines, with consequent side-effects and intolerance. Some antipsychotic drugs and some antidepressants inhibit the hydroxylation enzymes, resulting in pharmacokinetic interactions between these drugs. Tissue from human liver banks can now be used to assess drug metabolism as part of the development of new drugs, without exposing living subjects to the drug; this is surely an important advance.

The book is recommended for psychiatrists wishing to know more about the metabolism of psychotropic drugs.

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Design and Analysis of Reliability Studies. The Statistical Evaluation of Measurement Errors. By G. DUNN. Oxford: Edward Arnold. 1989. 198 pp. £25.00.

This excellent book deserves a place on the bookshelf of anyone concerned with the statistical problems of assessing the dependability or reliability of measurements. Starting from the assumption that the reader has a "level of statistical competence . . . covered by most elementary statistics courses", the book is neatly divided into three self-contained sections. In the first section, three chapters cover the basic types of mathematical measurement models (including binomial and Poisson processes as well as normal distributions), coefficients of agreement/disagreement and indices of reliability, consistency and stability. The second section is a single chapter on the often neglected topic of experimental designs for reliability studies (including consideration of sample size estimation). The final and longest section consists of three chapters on inferential methods used in the analysis of data from reliability studies; two chapters concentrate on methods appropriate for interval data while the third deals with categorical and ordinal measurements. Some essential mathematical concepts are described in detail in a series of appendices, and a list of major statistical computer packages which include the techniques dealt with in the book is also provided.

The techniques covered constitute a comprehensive guide to the statistical methods widely used in reliability studies. All of the methods are explained clearly, supplementing the rigorous mathematical descriptions supplied. The liberal use of worked examples clearly drawn from real clinical situations are particularly helpful. The mathematical notation used follows standard conventions and is consistent throughout the book.

The book contains one glaring omission. In their seminal paper, Bland & Altman (1985; *Lancet*, *i*, 307-308) argue forcibly that the assessment of reliability is not entirely a matter of statistical significance testing. Indeed, they show an example in which one of the statistical techniques advocated in this book leads to an erroneous conclusion. Bland & Altman advocate a confidence limit approach to reliability estimation, which essentially supplies an estimate of the probability that the difference between two supposedly identical measurements will lie within a clinically acceptable range. This approach usefully combines both statistical and clinical significance, but is totally ignored by Dunn.

There is also some doubt in my mind that the author has correctly identified his potential audience. A level of

mathematical expertise up to and including a working knowledge of matrix algebra is required, and I am not convinced that many non-statisticians will possess that. Reasonably numerate researchers looking for a 'cook-book' of suitable methods should not be daunted by the complexity of the formulae presented, however; this is a book which will richly reward perseverance with any unfamiliar mathematical concepts.

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AIDS, Drugs and Prostitution. Edited by MARTIN PLANT. London: Routledge. 1990. 213 pp. £30.00.

This book consists of a collection of papers, some heavily referenced others not, describing research into prostitution, and originates from a workshop held in Edinburgh in February 1989. It consists of an introduction and conclusion by the editor and 10 chapters by 14 authors with over 40 tables, although some of the data has already appeared in journals. The major themes explored are the reasons for prostitution, the use of condoms in working and non-working relationships, the amount of drug use by prostitutes, and the fact that except in Africa, to date the majority of HIV infection among prostitutes is related to injection drug use rather than heterosexual spread. Many of the chapters have descriptive introductions concerning the history and manner of prostitution in various parts of the world.

While posing the question how have prostitutes and clients responded to AIDS, the book actually only deals with prostitutes and their reports of clients' views or behaviour. No actual data on clients is presented which seems surprising since presumably if one can recruit prostitutes from sexually transmitted disease clinics one can recruit clients. There are some common problems with all of the studies presented which are best exemplified by Dr Darrows' review of seroprevalence among prostitutes in the US. The majority of reports have less than 100 participants, some as few as 10, yet we are constantly told that prostitution is widespread. While there are numerous varieties of prostitutes from street walkers to those in massage parlours and escort agencies it is worrying that the majority of work and the conclusions reached are based on street prostitutes.

In the concluding chapter the editor suggests that the different methods employed by the various authors, together with the uniformity of their results, strengthens the validity of the data. In fact all the studies used only two methods of recruitment, either via sexually transmitted disease clinics or using the technique of snowballing, and it is therefore not surprising that the results demonstrated uniformity since prostitutes not contacted by these methods are not represented.

The book is an interesting collection of papers, some anecdotal and others highly scientific, which detail the

connection between prostitution and drugs as well as providing some very limited data on HIV before 1989. Although the reports confirm that except for in Africa the majority of HIV in prostitutes is related to injection drug use, it does not answer questions relating to clients, with no new data on whether HIV is being spread by prostitution or whether clients are responding to the risk. I suspect that it will have only a limited audience although it serves the useful purpose of bringing together a diverse collection of reports on prostitution.

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The Practical Application of Medical and Dental Hypnosis. By MILTON H. ERICKSON, SEYMOUR HERSHMAN and IRVING I. SECTER. New York: Brunner/Mazel. 1989. 480 pp. \$18.95.

For the serious therapist, fresh accounts of the work of Erickson should always be welcomed. Unfortunately, in this volume Hershman and Sectar do him little justice, particularly as a first-named, albeit posthumous author.

The book consists of 11 chapters, with case histories and transcriptions of discussions between therapists and subjects as recorded at various seminars throughout the USA.

In the chapter outlining the history and theory of hypnotism, the former is not entirely accurate and the latter is all too brief. The results of electroencephalographic studies should warrant more than two lines. Thus, the important works of Wyke, Rozhnov and Ulett *et al* are notable for their absence. Current theories of suggestibility and hypnotisability are also omitted, but fascinating interviews by Erickson and others are recorded as a means of illustrating some of the phenomena of hypnosis. The discussion on anaesthesia should have mentioned the use of hypnosis in minor surgery and in plastic surgery, particularly following injury and burns. A brief discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of hypnosis in obstetrics omits useful references to those such as Fuchs *et al* who report extensively on the treatment of hyperemesis.

On page 228, the patient is told that all the information she has ever heard, read or seen "is stored in the subconscious". Is it?

Chapter 7, "Hypnosis in children", is an area in which this therapy can be invaluable. Yet no mention is made of the classical work of the Hilgards on the amelioration of pain, particularly as applied to the treatment of leukaemia.

A hotch-potch of subjects follow. These are discussed under such headings as "Fears", "Pains" and "Therapy of habits", etc., while "Phobias" merit a mere six and a half lines. Terminal cancer, upon which so much devoted work has been carried out, would deserve a