

BOOK REVIEWS

MADNESS AND THE CRIMINAL LAW. By N. Morris. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1982. 209 pp. + Appendix and Index.

Reviewed by William H. Reid, MD, MPH

This refreshing, single-author book presents a scholarly examination of the concept of criminal responsibility of the mentally ill and the sentencing of the mentally ill offender. It is short and easily readable. Two of its five chapters present fictional examples of some of the issues, written in the style of Eric Blair (George Orwell). The dilemmas approached in the fictional text are illustrative but sometimes incomplete.

The book presents a number of straw men in its sometimes repetitive arguments for treating the mentally ill offender within the mainstream of the criminal justice system (rather than by means of, for example, "special defenses"). The points raised are excellent ones and the theoretical solutions, while not always unexpected, make considerable sense. Although the "Acknowledgements" and "Introduction" are filled with disclaimers about the author's expertise, the depth of his knowledge is apparent and his points are made with typical lawyer's aggression. Whether one agrees with everything written is really beside the point. □

THE LEGAL DIMENSIONS OF NURSING PRACTICE. By L.R. Rocerto and C.M. Maleski. New York: Springer Publishing, 1982. ISBN 0-8261-3520-X. x + 164 pp. \$14.95.

Reviewed by Mitzi Bollinger, RN

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Rocerto and Maleski in *The Legal Dimensions of Nursing Practice* formulate guidelines for professional nurses pertaining to clinical nursing practice. The authors specifically explore professional nursing liability principles surrounding four broad areas. These include: informed consent; medical record documentation; interdisciplinary team considerations; and personal liability.

The Legal Dimensions of Nursing Practice provides a general overview of legal/liability issues impacting professional nursing practice in the 1980s. This book is well written, informative, and thought provoking. □