

## Books Reviewed

**PSYCHIATRIC ADMINISTRATION: A COMPREHENSIVE TEXT FOR THE CLINICIAN-EXECUTIVE.** Edited by J.A. Talbott and S.R. Kaplan. New York: Grune & Stratton, 1982. ISBN 0-8089-1529-0. xiv + 410 pp. \$38.50.

Reviewed by William H. Reid, MD, MPH

This is a comprehensive edited text on the subject of psychiatric administration. Unlike many edited volumes, the quality of the chapters is fairly even (and high), perhaps because of the quality and experience of the various contributors. It is quite a complete book, with twenty-seven chapters covering Historical and Organizational Perspectives; Psychiatric Services; Organizational and Administrative Theory; Leadership and Training; Facility Management, Budget, and Finance; and The Law and Psychiatry. The last section contains two chapters, one on civil law by Peter M. Crain and one on criminal law by Harvey Bluestone and John T. Mellella. My only criticism is that this topic, which is increasing in importance for the psychiatric administrator, is necessarily covered only briefly.

Although the book has little relevance for most forensic psychiatrists, those engaged at the interface of psychiatric institutions and the law will find it an extremely valuable resource. □

**PROBLEMS IN HOSPITAL LAW.** By Robert D. Miller. Rockville, MD: Aspen Systems Corporation. ISBN 0-89443-937-5. vii + 379.

Reviewed by William H. Reid, MD, MPH

Although this book does not focus on forensic psychiatry, and thus may be too general for the forensic specialist, it has a striking breadth of material for the psychiatrist or other physician with a hospital-based practice. Its content is particularly relevant to the psychiatrist or other physician whose duties include administration of hospitals or clinics.

The sixteen chapters include material on basic law ("Introduction into the American Legal System," "General Principles of Civil Liability"), administrative issues, patient-related information ("Beginning and Ending the Relationship With the Patient," "Authorization For Treatment," "Collection and Disclosure of Patient Information"), and a few more specialized topics ("Reproductive Issues;" "Dying, Death, and Dead Bodies").

The book is written from a legal rather than a clinical perspective. It is extremely well organized and easy to use, in part because it is written by a single author. There is a good general index and an even better index of court cases. □