

Book Reviews

THE RAGE WITHIN. By W Gaylin.
New York: Simon and Schuster, 1984.
224 pp. \$16.95.

Reviewed by Stephen P. Herman, MD

Willard Gaylin, psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, and President of the much respected Hastings Center, avers that expressions of anger and its physiological correlates are outdated, atavistic, and just plain troublesome human responses. Like the vermiform appendix, anger may have served some good earthly purpose long ago. However, this emotion is now obsolete and maladaptive. However, he also writes, "Anger is an important and appropriate response to many life experiences." It is the physiology of anger that "prepares us for solutions that are obsolete." The author gives us the "truth" that the mechanisms of anger are "positively destructive." His argument is confusing and the differentiation between anger and the mechanisms of anger is convoluted, arbitrary, and hazy.

Unfortunately, Gaylin's case in support of his premise (confusing as it is) is a weak one, with occasional forays into neurophysiology, psychology, anthropology, sociology, and theology. The "setting" for much of his theory is New York City, apparently held by the author to be a microcosm of the entire world today. This type of cosmic extrapolation

is dangerous and intellectually suspect. Indeed, the author's central argument that anger is a vestigial response is also questionable.

There is little of interest for the forensic psychiatrist here, other than some intriguing observations about "crimes of passion." The level of this book seems beyond the average lay reader but not nearly academic enough for the researcher or clinician. The author is at his best when he relates anecdotes of anger in the Big Apple. Then his prose is evocative and moving. As a convincing treatise on a major aspect of the human condition, however, the book does not succeed.

SURGEONS AT THE BAILEY: ENGLISH FORENSIC MEDICINE TO 1878. By TR Forbes. Introduction by K Simpson. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985. xiii + 255 pp. \$26.00.

Reviewed by Jacques M. Quen, MD

Thomas Roger Forbes has put together a unique history of English forensic medicine at the Old Bailey, London's Central Criminal Court. Basing this work largely on the manuscripts of the Criminal Court Proceedings, known as the *Old Bailey Sessions Papers*, as well as other manuscript and published sources of the time, Forbes traces the development of expert medical testi-

mony from an era of narrative nonquantifying medicine in the late seventeenth century through the late nineteenth century to the acceptance of the medical laboratory and the germ theory of disease.

Whereas most forensic psychiatrists will gravitate to the chapter on insanity, the entire book is worth reading. The background of our subspecialty has rarely been laid out so well. The chapter on insanity contains some material that should be well-known to our readers as well as several new references and sources. If I were planning to go to England after the AAPL annual meeting, I would make a point of reading this book, and I would consider going to the Guildhall Library to examine the records of some of these early insanity trials.

Forbes writes well and his 16 pages of references are a treasure trove of sources for the history of the development of forensic medicine and for the readers of the *Bulletin*. Educated forensic psychiatrists will want to be familiar with the contents of this book.

THE IMPAIRED PHYSICIAN, Vol. XIV. Edited by SC Scheiber and BB Doyle. New York: Plenum Medical Book Co., 1983. 211 pp. \$24.50.

Reviewed by Joseph T. Smith, MD, JD

In the *Peanuts* comic strip, while Lucy is manning the booth labeled, "Psychia-

try—5 cents" she tell Linus, "The problem with you is that you are you." When he asks what he can do about it, she replies, "My job is just to point out the problem."

Unlike Lucy, Stephen Scheiber and Brian Doyle point out solutions to the problem of alcohol and drug abuse, mental illness, suicide, and marital difficulties. The book contains chapters on efforts to prevent, identify, and treat impaired physicians in medical school, in graduate training, and in practice. There are detailed expositions of the special strengths and weaknesses of physicians that may complicate treatment effort. The book points out that there are now programs for impaired physicians in all 50 states, due largely to the efforts of the state medical societies. It provides an up-to-date bibliography of the literature concerning the impaired physician, as well as a detailed listing of the sources of help in every state.

The book contains a wealth of statistical data describing the incidence and prevalence of the problems of the impaired physician. Unfortunately, as the chapters are written independently by various authors, many of the same studies are quoted. But because it deals with prevention in medical school and in practice and because it deals with the management of the impaired physician in a variety of circumstances, it is an excellent guidebook for medical society committees dealing with this problem. This book on the impaired physician should be on every doctor's shelf.