

Book Reviews

When this issue was being prepared, your Book Review Editor had just moved from Omaha to San Antonio, and from academia to the private sector (and part-time academia). Some reviews and reviewers may have been lost in the shuffle. Our book-reviewing mechanism has now been restored, however, and we are back on schedule. If you would like to review one or more books on a subject related to forensic psychiatry, please call (512) 341-5131 or contact

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FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY AND PSYCHOLOGY. Edited by WJ Curran, AL McGarry, SA Shah. Philadelphia: FA Davis Co., 1986. 535 pages + index. \$49.00.

Reviewed by William H. Reid, MD
Book Review Editor

This is one of the best forensic psychiatry texts I have read. It does not cover every nuance, to be sure; but there is more accurate, useful, well-organized information packed into these 535 pages than one is likely to see again for a long time. It is also one of the only texts I have read that successfully integrates psychiatric and psychological teaching. It gives

short shrift to neither, and the result is information that is helpful for both kinds of clinicians.

The editors have taken pains to avoid the disorganization and unevenness that is the bane of edited texts. They provide section introductions that knit the chapters together, along with a consistent, easy-to-read graphic format. The individual authors are outstanding in their fields, and include the editors, Gene Abel ("Sexually Aggressive Behavior"), Park Elliott Dietz ("Male Genital Exhibitionism"), Loren Roth ("Correctional Psychiatry") Herbert Modlin ("Civil Law and Psychiatric Testimony"), and many others. The editors' own writing appears throughout the book.

The section headings are "Foundations of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology"; "Assessment and Treatment in Forensic Settings"; "The Child, the Family, and the Community: Legal Perspectives"; "Sexually-related Offenses"; "Legal Implications of Personality Disorders"; and "Role of Mental Health Professionals in the Courts and Prisons." Some chapters are highly specialized (e.g., "Male Genital Exhibitionism"), but most are careful, well-written discussions of basic topics. It will make a great text for forensic psychiatry seminars.

VIOLENCE IN THE HOME: INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES. Edited by M Lystad, editor. New York: Brunner/Mazel, 1986. 300 pages + author & subject indices. \$30.00.

Reviewed by William H. Reid, MD
Book Review Editor

This book is a bit uneven, in part because it is an edited text, with no summary comments or “bridges” between the sections or chapters, and in part because of the variety among the authors’ backgrounds. There are psychiatrists, psychologists, a social worker, and a lawyer, from community, institutional, and academic settings. This is not all bad; the problem of family violence requires the attention of many disciplines.

Much of the book is descriptive, and often not new. I wish there had been more on the treatment of perpetrators of family violence—there is effective treatment—and, from the AAPL perspective, on the interface of psychiatry and the legal aspects of the topic. The only such chapter was that by Lisa G. Lerman, an interesting discussion of the “Prosecution of Wife Beaters.”

HYPNOSIS: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS. By B Zilbergeld, MG Edelstien, DL Araoz. New York: W. W. Norton, 1986. 480 pages + index. \$34.95.

Reviewed by William H. Reid, MD
Book Review Editor

This is a book of 84 little chapters, some only two or three pages long, which are really “answers” to “questions” put to the various authors. They are written by a variety of doctoral-level professionals, from private practice and institutions,

on almost every conceivable topic of clinical hypnosis. Most of the names were unfamiliar to me; a few, such as Martin Orne, MD, PhD, and David Spiegel, MD, were very familiar.

The only section of specific interest to forensic psychiatrists was that on “Validity of Hypnosis,” including “Fabrication in Hypnosis” (H. Relinger) and “The Validity of Memories Retrieved in Hypnosis” (Martin Orne). One might wish to use the book for light reading or to be aware of questions that attorneys might ask on the topic of hypnosis; but there are better books—such as Kroger’s *Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis*—to use for basic information.

LAW AND PSYCHIATRY: RE-THINKING THE RELATIONSHIP. By MS Moore. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1984. 513 pages + index. \$59.00

Reviewed by William H. Reid, MD
Book Review Editor

This is not a textbook. It is a thoughtful series of essays by Professor Moore, of the University of Southern California Law Center, who has for many years been committed to the premise that persons are responsible for what they do because they have “the capacities rationally to will our fate in this world.” The premise is outlined in the first two chapters, then developed, often in a somewhat complex manner, in those that follow.

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The author writes at length on topics that would generally be thought outside his ken: the unconscious, motives for dreaming, "(t)he expansive psychiatric definitions of mental illness." He treats these with scholarly attention and presents a set of essays with copious notes and references. This is not light reading, but it is very good for the mind.

BIOLOGICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS IN DELINQUENCY AND MENTAL DISORDER. Compiled by DW Denno and RM Schwartz. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1985. xii + 222 pages. \$37.50.

Reviewed by Richard C Marohn, MD

This work, prepared under the auspices of the Center for Studies in Criminology and Criminal Law at the University of Pennsylvania, is characterized as an "interdisciplinary bibliography." As such, it

should offer a great deal to adolescent or forensic psychiatrists, giving them access to an orderly presentation of the vast literature on the emotionally disturbed juvenile delinquent, found in the archives of our sociology and criminology colleagues. In many ways, this volume meets that promise.

On the other hand, because this bibliography uses preestablished data bases and literature searches, it reflects certain biases; for example, so-called "hard research" is given greater importance than clinical reports, and, as a result, the vast bulk of the psychodynamic and psychoanalytic literature is not included in these reports. As someone who has worked in both areas, this reviewer is continually impressed by how much more useful are his and others' clinical findings, in contrast to his and others' research studies.

Nonetheless, I welcome this book to my library, and expect to refer to it frequently, as long as I recognize that it, too, has its limits, defining psychiatry in behavioral, interpersonal, and/or biologic spheres.