

Book Review

HANDBOOK OF CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY, Edited by Susan B. Filskov and Thomas J. Boll, John Wiley and Sons, NY, 1981, 806 pg. \$35.

Reviewed by Richard T. Rada, MD
Editor-in-Chief

Neuropsychology is a field of study that proposes a model relating brain dysfunction/damage to observable, empirically described behavioral deficits. The field has enjoyed an enormous growth of experimental and clinical interests in the past three decades. In fact, subspecialties within the field have already emerged. The **Handbook of Clinical Neuropsychology** is designed to serve as a basic reference for the practicing neuropsychologist and a text for graduate study. As such, it is comprehensive, highly detailed and exceedingly well referenced. The book can serve as a useful resource for forensic psychiatrists who need to consider neuropsychological issues in certain cases, e.g., post-traumatic stress syndromes, workers compensation cases and some malpractice cases.

The book is composed of 24 chapters divided into five major sections. The editors have assembled a very competent group of contributors, some of whom, such as Karl H. Pribram, will be familiar to those not conversant with the field. Part 1 presents basic concepts on brain-behavior relationships, lateralization of brain function, emotions and the neuropsychology of aging. Part 2 is devoted to neuropsychological disorders associated with memory, apraxias, alcohol and drug use and epilepsy. Part 3 is an interesting section devoted to neuropsychology of children. The three chapters in this section examine the issue of development of cerebral dominance, the neuropsychology of brain damage in children and the neuropsychological assessment of children with learning disabilities. Part 4, dealing with examination procedures and diagnosis, contains several chapters of particular value to forensic psychiatrists. The chapter on the effects of psychiatric disorders and their somatic treatments on neuropsychological test performance is heavily documented and carefully researched. Since the effects of psychopharmacologic agents on neuropsychological behavior and performance are a critical issue in some forensic cases, this chapter is of particular interest.

In court, it is important to know what is known and what is **not** known. For example, there have been no studies of the effects of monoamine-oxidase-inhibiting anti-depressants on neuropsychological performance. Part 5 presents issues in neuropsychological practice. This section contains a chapter on the forensic applications of clinical psychology. The chapter is addressed specifically to clinical neuropsychologists without extensive ex-

perience in the forensic area and would be viewed by most forensic psychiatrists as elementary.

The **Handbook of Clinical Neuropsychology** was written for and meant to be read by clinical neuropsychologists. Its everyday value for forensic psychiatrists is limited. It is, however, a scholarly and comprehensive book which can serve as a useful resource in those cases in which neuropsychological assessment is indicated. □