

differences between DSM-III and ICD-9 will make communication more difficult.

In *Regional Perspectives*, contributors from 12 countries discuss local diagnostic practices and how they relate to DSM-III. Contributions to this section confirm that the major achievements of DSM-III are methodologic and heuristic and agree that DSM-III has stimulated remarkable international discussion and research.

The fourth section, *Empirical Studies and Future Directions for Research*, contains a collection of research studies conducted abroad using DSM-III. The book concludes with a thoughtful, balanced summary and commentary. The editors accept the validity of a number of international criticisms and reject others.

Overall, the editors have done an outstanding job. However, this book's usefulness is limited to those with an interest in psychiatric nosology.

**POST-TRAUMATIC NEUROSIS: FROM RAILWAY SPINE TO THE WHIPLASH.** By MR Trimble. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1981 [reprinted 1983]. 156 pp. \$39.95

Reviewed by Helen L. Morrison, MD

This is essentially a reprint of a volume originally published in 1981. As such, it does not vary from the initial presentation of this literature review. The difficulty that this reviewer has with the stated purpose of the book, which is the assessment of psychiatric disability in reactions to trauma, is that it is written by a behavioral neurologist, currently a lecturer at the National Hospital, Queens Square in London. This book will provide an extensive bibliography to the interested reader. One would not expect to utilize this volume as a definitive test concerning this topic.

**SEXUAL ASSAULT AMONG ADOLESCENTS.** By SS Ageton. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, 1983. xi + 184 pp. \$24.00

Reviewed by Helen L. Morrison, MD

For those who do not work with adolescents, it is astonishing for clinicians to recognize that uniform crime reports consistently show that adolescents

## **Book Reviews**

constitute greater than 30 percent of those arrested for rape. Disproportionate involvement of adolescents in sexual assault as both victims and offenders has been reported in the literature of the late seventies. This volume presents current research, in a pioneering manner, of a representative sample of "all youth involved in sexual assault."

The volume is the result of data obtained from the Sexual Assault Project. The project looked at a national probability sample of adolescents ages 11 through 17. The project collected estimates of annual incidence and prevalence of sexual assault as well as information on the occurrence of sexually assaultive behavior. The same group was subsequently interviewed once a year for five consecutive years and a predictive model of adolescent sexual assault derived from a delinquency theory was introduced. One objective of the Sexual Assault Project was creation of descriptive goals to provide incidence, prevalence, and distribution of sexual assault. The second was to describe and assess victim reactions and provide a descriptive profile of the adolescent victim. The study developed and tested of a theoretical model of sexual assault among adolescents.

There are four major parts to the book. The introduction of the research methods and procedures is followed by chapters dealing with the sexual assault experience for the female adolescent victim. The vulnerability to sexual assault, the aftermath of sexual assault, and the nature and extent of assault is included in this section. The following section addresses the adolescent offender, including the nature and extent of sexual assault, the experience from the perspective of the offender, and prediction of the offense. In the summary of major findings, it is striking that during the years from 1978 to 1980, from 5 to 11 percent of adolescent females experienced at least one assault (700,000 and 1,000,000 teenage females).

It was noted that most sexual assaults committed by adolescent males were spontaneous events that occurred in the context of a date. The victims are typically girlfriends or dates of approximately the same age as the offender. Less than 15 percent of the victims in any one year were unknown to the offender. The offender's or victim's house was the typical setting for the assault. Although the media has tended to describe this behavior by the term "date rape," the implications of the results obtained in the sexual assault project are chilling reminders that assaultive behavior in the context of sexuality is beginning at an even earlier age than was previously experienced or expected among clinicians.

Extensive appendices are included which were utilized in the research projects. This volume is highly recommended.