

THE SEX OFFENDER AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. By RM Holmes. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, 1983. \$29.75

Reviewed by John M. W. Bradford, MB, ChB

As Holmes himself points out in the introduction, the content dealt with in this particular book is not intended to be an all-inclusive text. What he has done is cover a number of subjects ranging from society, morality, and sex, to the treatment of the sexual criminal in a summary and review format. Some of the clinical subjects which are dealt with, such as criminality as biologically inherited, do not address recent empirical work in the area and, as such, may not be completely suitable for forensic psychiatrists who have a larger and broader knowledge.

Under the nuisance sex crimes, Holmes has provided interesting descriptions of the various paraphilic behaviors, but not in a clinical context. A chapter on transvestism, transsexualism, and homosexuality provides a similar overview.

The reader trained in forensic psychiatry will find the book an interesting, but simplistic, summary of the various paraphilias and other sexual behavioral topics. It does not provide a detailed look at either assessment or treatment and, in my opinion, is not written for a sophisticated forensic psychiatric audience. On the other hand, it is a book that provides an accurate overview of these subjects and, although it lacks an up-to-date review of the empirical research that is available in areas such as pedophilia, incest, and dangerous sex crimes, it does deal with these subjects in a balanced way.

I personally would not recommend this book for the forensic psychiatric group; however, it is a book that will provide a helpful overview to people involved in law and education, as it is easy and entertaining reading and is not inaccurate in a summary format.