

## Book Reviews

INVOLUNTARY CIVIL COMMITMENT OF THE MENTALLY ILL IN THE POST-REFORM ERA. By RD Miller. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas, 1987. 257 pp. \$42.75.

Reviewed by Joseph D. Bloom, MD

Robert Miller provides us with a detailed review of civil commitment over the last 20 years. The book is divided into the major areas of the substantive and procedural criteria for civil commitment. Under substantive criteria are chapters discussing mental disorder, dangerousness and need for treatment. The section dealing with procedural changes has chapters on the right to counsel, the right to remain silent, the right to treatment and to refuse treatment, commitment to least restrictive environment, and access to records. The book concludes with a discussion of the impact of these changes, a chapter on outpatient commitment, and a look to the future.

The book is as complete an overview as I have seen on the subject of civil commitment. It is very heavily referenced; anyone wanting to research any of the subjects discussed will find more than ample references from case law and the legal and psychiatric literature from which to begin an in-depth inquiry. Although clearly written by a physician, the author continuously presents a balance between the clinical and civil liberties points of view.

I like this book very much, and I recommend it highly to any serious student of the subject of civil commitment. If the book has a failing, it is in the conclusion. Dr. Miller decries polemic and asks for dispassion and research. The inescapable conclusion, however, after reading his book is that those who toil in the field of civil commitment are like those who built the Tower of Babel. After 20 years of reform what do we actually have? We have no national policy toward the mentally ill. Our President and Congress have led a full-scale retreat from the problems of the mentally ill. We have a Supreme Court that has backed away from most of the major problems in this area. We are left with state legislatures and the federal and state courts, all making law as diverse as the facts in any individual situation. After 20 years it seems that we still can't agree that mental illness exists, that effective treatments are available, that drugs and psychosocial treatment help the large majority of patients, that both hospital and community care are necessary, and that most refusal of treatment is a product of illness, not the rational, considered expression of First Amendment choice. In keeping with the measured tone of his book, Dr. Miller couldn't say this, so I said it for him.

HIGH RISK. By K Magid, and CA McKelvey. Golden, CO: M & M Publishing, 1987. xiv + 350 pp. Price not available.

Reviewed by Stuart B. Silver, MD

Subtitled "Children without a Conscience," this compendium of current thinking on the Antisocial Personality Disorder (APD) is written in a breezy style and appears directed at a composite audience. The authors' thesis attributes the formation of APD to early failure of bonding to primary caregivers—engendering unremitting rage in the infant, who later transforms into an ingratiating, manipulative, and unpredictably assaultive character. These "unattached children" become what the authors call "trust bandits" as they mature and enter adult life. This work is divided into five sections that address recognition of the disordered personality, its pathogenesis, treatment, and prevention.

A substantial mission of the book is to sensitize the reader to the growing problem of APD in our nation. An alarmist and sensationalist quality to the presentation mirrors, perhaps, the authors' liberal use of references drawn from magazines, newspapers, and personal communications. This quality is reflected in some of the chapter headings, e.g., *Kids Who Kill*, *The Cycle of Abuse*, and *Defusing the National Time Bomb*. APD becomes the embarkation for a broad examination and critique of many contemporary issues including teen pregnancy, rootlessness of modern society, marriage and divorce, custody, child care, and education. Often the linkages between these problems and APD are drawn more from citations of anecdotal experiences than from careful research.

Although interesting and informative, the book suffers from over-repetition of many themes and a tendency toward overinclusiveness. Much of the energy of the text is devoted to encouraging a national policy on parental postnatal leave policy, better child care facilities, and full-time parental presence during the infant's first year of life. Chilling anecdotes describing remorseless murders occupy many other pages. Of interest to the general reader, the book is too superficial for the psychiatric clinician.

CONCISE GUIDE TO CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY AND THE LAW. By RI Simon. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Press, 1988. xvii + 159 pp. \$15.95. (Part of series entitled "American Psychiatric Press Concise Guides." Edited by Robert E. Hales, MD)

Reviewed by  
William H. Reid, MD, MPH

This small—indeed, "concise"—volume is packed with information for the general psychiatrist. Its various sections range from judicial issues to clinical practices that often involve the law, with the bulk of the text being related to the latter. The book has ten sections: *Defensive Psychiatry and the Law*, *The Doctor-Patient Relationship*, *Informed Consent and the Right to Refuse Treatment*, *Psychiatric Interventions*, *Confidentiality and Testimonial Privilege*, *Civil Commitment*, *The Suicidal Patient*, *The*

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*Potentially Violent Patient, Sexual Misconduct, and Seclusion and Restraint.* Each section is clearly organized with an overview of the law, clinical management suggestions, and references. One of the appendices includes a very useful glossary of legal terms. This guide should be kept next to the heavier reference tomes in one's library. It is inexpensive enough for residents and medical students (although they should be able to refer to more comprehensive books from time to time).

THE EXPERT WITNESS HANDBOOK: TIPS AND TECHNIQUES FOR THE LITIGATION CONSULTANT. By D Poynter. Santa Barbara, CA: Para Publishing, 1987. 243 pp. \$29.95.

Reviewed by Joseph T. Smith, MD

Experience may be the best teacher, even for the expert witness, but if the forensic psychiatrist is willing to set aside a couple of hours to read this book, he or she will find that the author's experience will do two things. First, it will bear out his or her own experience as an expert, which tells one the author is authentic. Second, it will suggest many pointers that will save a lot of trouble down the road. The handbook includes simple examples and valuable checklists for every phase of the expert's work, such as attorney-expert pretrial conference, depositions, and courtroom testimony. The reader will recognize all the common

mistakes beginning experts make, such as discussing a case in the hallway or elevator where jurors might overhear, and will find practical suggestions to help avoid them.

*The Expert Witness Handbook* is quick and easy reading. If you're an expert witness, it's the best book you'll ever buy.

REFORMING THE LAW: IMPACT OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH. Edited by GB Melton. New York: Guilford Press, 1987. 307 pp. \$30.00.

Reviewed by  
Denis M. Donovan, MD, MEd

If potentially life-saving research is often slow to make its way into the professional literature, how and when does the same information reach the legal system? If it does reach the system, how is it understood and interpreted and how is it used in formulating legal decisions? This is a crucial question that Melton and his associates, members of a study group sponsored by the Society for Research in Child Development, answer in great detail. Whether aware of it or not, every clinician working with children and families in cases dealing with divorce, custody or the increasingly common allegations of physical and sexual abuse (and, obviously, every forensic psychiatrist) is profoundly affected by what our legal system does or does not know about social science research.

The authors of the present volume, drawn from psychology, sociology, education, political science and law, deal first with specific issues such as the concept of "consent" as applied to children and the various ways by which child development research reaches the judicial system and its actual impact there. Practical guidelines for introducing research to legal audiences and for affecting the actual legal process are examined in great detail and with some surprising results. Melton notes, for example, that "Although publication of an important, legally relevant study in *Child Development* or *Developmental Psychology* will advance a child psychologist's (or child psychiatrist's) career, it will not inform legal authorities about the findings." National law reviews, especially those of the most prestigious law schools, are more likely to do so. A research-oriented article with legal implications published in *Psychology Today* is likely to be even more effective in reaching legal audiences—if less academically impressive.

Those who wish to reach the legal system will find the practical guidelines offered quite useful, although progress is slow. The book is enlightening for the clinician concerned with the real world of his or her patients; for the clinician actively involved with the legal system, it is an indispensable resource.

**CLINICAL CRIMINOLOGY: THE ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR.** Edited by MH Ben-Aron, SJ Hucker, and CD Webster. Toronto: M & M Graphics, 1985. xi + 327 pp. \$17.50.

Reviewed by Jonathan R. Kelly, MD

The editors of this forensic text present varied contributions from well-known authors in the field. A panoply of topics is presented, emphasizing the necessity for a statistical foundation for the modern clinical criminologist in proffering expert opinions and advice to the judiciary. A refinement of clinical assessment devices is suggested, to improve validity over past, less rigorous evaluation methods. Most chapters provide an overview of a topic that includes classification, theoretical explanations of causality, psychosocial-dynamic and biological explanations, assessment techniques, epidemiology, and treatment alternatives. A thorough compilation of references to research and literature is found throughout, with a final index of authors and subjects. Several chapters refer to specific research efforts and analysis, while others review helpful clinical assessment tools. Exhaustive reviews of specific topics are found (e.g., Schacter's discussion of amnesia).

Overall, the strengths of this reference text include a diversity of authors and topics, detailed bibliographic references, an accumulation of data from multiple sources, and an emphasis on a research-supported foundation for clinical assessment, formulation of expert opinions, and treatment for specific forensic populations. Despite the presence of some well-worn hypothetical and psychodynamic causal explanations for criminal behavior, I recommend this volume as a good reference for the clinical criminologist of the 1980s.

## Books Received

Once each year, a listing is published of all complimentary books sent for review by publishers whether reviewed in the *Bulletin* or not.

The book review editor solicits reviews of new books from AAPL members. If you wish to submit a review, please write or call: William H. Reid, MD, MPH, 2040 Babcock, Suite 300, San Antonio, TX 78229, (512) 696-0356. The editor reserves the right to edit or shorten reviews for the sake of clarity and space. *Bulletin* editors reserve the right of final decision on publication.

Melton GB, Petrila J, Poythress NG, Slobogin C: *Psychological Evaluations for the Courts: New York*. Guilford Press, 1987. xxviii + 511 pp. \$50.00.

Roth LH, editor: *Clinical Treatment of the Violent Person*. New York, Guilford Press, 1987. xxx + 270 pp. \$30.00.

Doren DM: *Understanding and Treating the Psychopath*. New York, John Wiley & Sons, 1987. xiii + 269 pp. \$32.00.

Szasz T: *Insanity: The Idea and Its Consequences*. New York, John Wiley & Sons, 1987. xvi + 414 pp. \$17.95.

Weiner IB, Hess AK: *Handbook of Forensic Psychology*. New York, John Wiley & Sons, 1987. xv + 725 pp. \$52.50.

Hodges WF: *Interventions for Children of Divorce: Custody, Access & Psychotherapy*. New York, John Wiley & Sons, 1987. ix + 374 pp. \$39.95.

Wolman BB: *The Sociopathic Personality*. New York, Brunner/Mazel, 1987. viii + 210 pp. \$25.00.

Rossum RA, Koller BJ, Manfredi CP: *Juvenile Justice Reform: A Model for the States*. Washington, DC, Rose Institute of State & Local Government & The American Legislative Exchange Council, 1987. ix + 201 pp. No price given. LOC Catalog No. 86-73146.

Spitz HI, Rosecan JS, editors: *Cocaine Abuse: New Directions in Treatment and Research*. New York, Brunner/Mazel, 1987. \$35.00.

Smith JT: *Medical Malpractice: Psychiatric Care (vol 1)*. Colorado Springs, Shepard's/McGraw-Hill, 1986. No price given.

Brassard MR, Germain R, Hart SN: *Psychological Maltreatment of Children and Youth*. New York, Pergamon Books, 1986. \$45.00.

Cochran L, Claspel E: *The Meaning of Grief: A Dramaturgical Approach to Understanding Emotion*. New York, Greenwood Press, 1987. \$32.95.

Knapp S, VandeCreek L: *Privileged Communications in the Mental Health Professions*. New York, Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1987. \$27.95.

Riley AW, Zaccaro SJ, editors: *Occupational Stress and Organizational Effectiveness*. New York, Praeger, 1987. \$39.95.

Ruben DH, Delprato DJ, editors: *New Ideas in Therapy: Introduction to an Interdisciplinary Approach*. Westport, CT, Greenwood Press, 1987. \$37.95.

Stoller RJ: *Perversion: The Erotic Form of Hatred*. Washington, DC, American Psychiatric Press, 1975. No price given.

Lankton SR, editor: *Ericksonian Monographs Number 2: Central Themes and Principles of Ericksonian Therapy*. New York, Brunner/Mazel, 1987. \$22.50.

Nace EP: *The Treatment of Alcoholism*. New York, Brunner/Mazel, 1987. No price given.

Pederson P: *Handbook of Cross-Cultural Counseling & Therapy*. New York, Praeger, 1987. \$19.95.

Nichols MP: *The Self in the System: Expanding the Limits of Family Therapy*. New York, Brunner/Mazel, 1987. \$30.00.

van Huesden A, van den Eerenbeemt EM: *Balance in Motion: Ivan Boszormenyi-Nagy & His Vision of Individual & Family Therapy*. New York, Brunner/Mazel, 1987. \$22.50.

Fredman N, Sherman R: *Handbook of Measurements for Marriage & Family Therapy*. New York, Brunner/Mazel, 1987. \$25.00.

Gilgen AR, Gilgen CK, editors: *International Handbook of Psychology*. Westport, CT, Greenwood Press, 1987. \$75.00.

Ostfeld AM, Kasl SV, D'Atri DA, et al: *Stress, Crowding, & Blood Pressure in Prison*. Hillsdale, NJ, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 1987. \$29.95.

Roberts HB: *The Inner World of the Black Juvenile Delinquent*. Hillsdale, NJ, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 1987. \$24.95.

- Miller RD: *Involuntary Civil Commitment of the Mentally Ill in the Post-Reform Era*. Springfield, IL, Charles C. Thomas, 1987. xxi + 257 pp. \$42.75.
- Melton GB, editor: *Reforming the Law: Impact of Child Development Research*. New York, Guilford Press, 1987. \$30.00.
- Quick JC, Bhagat RS, Dalton JE, et al, editors: *Work Stress: Health Care Systems in the Workplace*. New York, Praeger Publishers, 1987. \$39.95.
- Steffenhagen RA, Burns JD: *The Social Dynamics of Self-Esteem: Theory to Therapy*. New York, Praeger Publishers, 1987. \$39.95.
- Barton WA: *Recovering for Psychological Injuries*. Washington, DC, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, 1985. No price given.
- Keiser TW, Keiser JL: *The Anatomy of Illusion: Religious Cults & Destructive Persuasion*. Springfield, IL, Charles C. Thomas, 1987. No price given.
- Macdonald J, Michaud D: *The Confession: Interrogation & Criminal Profiles for Police Officers*. Denver, CO, Apache Press, 1987. \$8.95.
- Looney JG, editor: *Chronic Mental Illness in Children and Adolescents*. Washington, DC, Press, 1988. xvii + 267 pp. \$35.00.
- Ben-Aron MH, Hucker SJ, Webster CD: *Clinical Criminology: The Assessment and Treatment of Criminal Behaviour*. Toronto, M & M Graphics, Ltd., 1985. xi + 327 pp. \$17.50.
- Davis M, Elliston FA, editors: *Ethics and the Legal Profession*. Buffalo, NY, Prometheus Books, 1986. v + 495 pp. \$16.95.
- Belenky G, editor: *Contemporary Studies in Combat Psychiatry*. Westport, CT, Greenwood Press, 1987. xx + 217 pp. \$39.95.
- Melton GB, Weithorn LA, Slobogin C: *Community Mental Health Centers and the Courts*. Lincoln, NE, University of Nebraska Press, 1985. viii + 169 pp. \$21.50.
- Magid K, McKelvey CA: *High Risk: Children without a Conscience*. Golden, CO, M & M Publishing, 1987. xiv + 351 pp. No price given.
- Reiser SJ, Bursztajn HJ, Appelbaum PS, et al: *Divided Staffs, Divided Selves: A Case Approach to Mental Health Ethics*. New York, Cambridge University Press, 1987. xiii + 150 pp. \$29.95.
- Visher EB, Visher JS: *Old Loyalties, New Ties: Therapeutic Strategies with Stepfamilies*. New York, Brunner/Mazel, 1988. ix + 272 pp. \$27.50.
- Meyerson AT, Fine T, editors: *Psychiatric Disability: Clinical, Legal, and Administrative Dimensions*. Washington, DC, APA Press, 1987. xviii + 461 pp. \$32.00.
- DuPont RL, editor: *Phobia: A Comprehensive Summary of Modern Treatments*. New York, Brunner/Mazel, 1982. xxii + 252 pp. No price given.
- Hershman DJ, Lieb J: *The Key to Genius: Manic-Depression and the Creative Life*. Buffalo, NY, Prometheus Books, 1988. 220 pp. \$19.95.
- Ochberg FM, editor: *Post-Traumatic Therapy and Victims of Violence*. New York, Brunner/Mazel, 1988. xiv + 384 pp. \$40.00.
- Glick ID, Clarkin JF, Kessler DR: *Marital & Family Therapy* (ed 3). Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1987. xxxv + 623 pp. \$39.50.
- Araoz DL, Negley-Parker E: *The New Hypnosis in Family Therapy*. New York, Brunner/Mazel, 1988. xxvi + 300 pp. \$30.00.
- Rinas J, Clyne-Jackson S: *Professional Conduct & Legal Concerns in Mental Health Practice*. E. Norwalk, CT, Appleton & Lange, 1988. x + 230 pp. \$29.95.
- Ressler RK, Burgess AW, Douglas JE: *Sexual Homicide: Patterns & Motives*. Lexington, MA, D.C. Heath & Co., 1988. xvi + 234 pp. \$32.95.
- Poynter D: *The Expert Witness Handbook: Tips & Techniques for the Litigation Consultant*. Santa Barbara, CA, Para Publishing, 1987. 243 pp. \$29.95.
- Sgroi SM: *Vulnerable Populations: Evaluation & Treatment of Sexually Abused Children & Adult Survivors (vol. 1)*. Lexington, MA, D.C. Heath & Co., 1988. xiii + 315 pp. \$39.95.
- Simon RI: *Concise Guide to Clinical Psychiatry & the Law*. Washington, DC, APA Press, 1988. xvii + 159 pp. \$15.95.
- Davis NM: *Medical Abbreviations: 5500 Conventions at the Expense of Communications & Safety (ed 4)*. Huntingdon Valley, PA, Neil M. Davis Associates, 1988. ii + 140 pp. \$7.95.
- Gabriel RA: *The Painful Field: The Psychiatric Dimension of Modern War*. Westport, CT, Greenwood Press, 1988. 189 pp. \$39.95.
- Pettinati HM, editor: *Hypnosis & Memory*. New York, Guilford Press, 1988. xiii + 301 pp. \$30.00.
- Schetky DH, Green AH: *Child Sexual Abuse: A Handbook for Health Care & Legal Professionals*. New York, Brunner/Mazel, 1988. xv + 248 pp. \$27.50.
- Dubovsky SL: *Concise Guide to Clinical Psychiatry*. Washington DC, APA Press, 1988. 198 pp. \$16.95.
- Guttmacher LB: *Concise Guide to Somatic Therapies in Psychiatry*. Washington, DC, APA Press, 1988. 164 pp. \$16.95.
- Jefferson JW, Greist JH, Ackerman DL, et al: *Lithium Encyclopedia for Clinical Practice (ed 2)*. Washington, DC, APA Press, 1987. xvi + 744 pp. \$29.95.
- Rafferty FT: *Catalog of Psychiatric Procedures*. Washington, DC, APA Press, 1988. ix + 136 pp. \$18.00.
- Wise M, Rundell J, editors: *Concise Guide to*

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- Consultation Psychiatry*. Washington, DC, APA Press, 1988. 192 pp. \$15.95.
- Greist JH, Jefferson JW: *Depression & Its Treatment*. Washington, DC: APA Press, 1984. xii + 116 pp. \$7.95.
- Greist JH, Jefferson JW, Marks IM: *Anxiety and Its Treatment*. Washington, DC, APA Press, 1986. xi + 202 pp. \$15.95.
- Everstine L, Everstine DS, editors: *Psychotherapy and the Law*. Orlando, FL, Grune & Stratton, 1986. xvi + 288 pp. \$34.50.
- Marafiotte RA: *The Custody of Children: A Behavioral Assessment Model*. New York, Plenum Press, 1985. xii + 277 pp. No price given.
- Rogers R: *Conducting Insanity Evaluations*. New York, Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1986. x + 273 pp. \$34.95.
- Melton GB, editor: *Adolescent Abortion: Psychological and Legal Issues*. Lincoln, NE, University of Nebraska Press, 1986. vii + 152 pp. \$17.50.
- Levin J, Fox JA: *Mass Murder: America's Growing Menace*. New York, Plenum Press, 1985. xvi + 252 pp. \$16.95.
- Macdonald JM: *The Murderer and His Victim (ed 2)*. Springfield, IL, Charles C. Thomas, 1986. xiv + 328 pp. \$35.50.
- Ziegenfuss JT, Jr: *Behavioral Scientists in Courts and Corrections*. New York, Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1985. xv + 245 pp. \$34.95.