

Book Reviews

of patients' rights, and a listing of the legal cases cited in the text.

Although this is a very clear and readable book, and thus will be used to the advantage of clinician, administrator, and patient alike, I wish that it were a bit more up to date. The most recent case cited is 1982 (*Youngberg v. Romeo*), with only one other since 1980 (*Eichner v. Dillon*, 1981).

ROGERS CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY ASSESSMENT SCALES. By R Rogers. Odessa, FL: Psychological Assessment Resources, 1984. \$22.

Reviewed by J. Reid Meloy

Until now, the validity of insanity evaluations has been virtually ignored in the research literature. The Rogers Criminal Responsibility Assessment Scales (R-CRAS) are a major contemporary contribution to resolution of the psycholegal controversies surrounding the plea of insanity. The R-CRAS was designed to provide a "systematic and empirically based approach to evaluations of criminal responsibility."

The forensic psychiatrist or psychologist is presented with a 15-page examination booklet that is organized into two parts. Part I consists of 25 assessment criteria that are each quantified into four to six graduations of increasing severity and address patient reliability, organicity, psychopathology, cognitive control,

and behavioral control. Part II consists of three decision models that successfully operationalize the ALI, GBMI, and M'Naghten Standards.

A moderate degree of internal consistency was found within each of the five summary scales. The interjudge reliability is particularly impressive since two examiners introduced a temporal variable by doing their evaluations at separate times. The mean reliability correlation coefficient for the 25 variables was .58 with 18 variables achieving significance at the .0001 level. The overall percentage of agreement for the ALI decision model was 91 percent and for the clinicians' opinions regarding insanity, the agreement was 97 percent.

The R-CRAS is a standardizing instrument to complement the careful review of all relevant police-investigative reports, clinical interviews with the patient/defendant, and psychologic or neurologic testing. It is a systematic and criterion-based instrument, modeled after the Schedule of Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia, that should be immensely helpful in determining criminal responsibility. It may well become the most important psychometric contribution of the decade to forensic psychiatry and psychology.

LAW AND THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM: CIVIL AND CRIMINAL ASPECTS. By R Reisner. St. Paul, MN: West Publishing (American Case Book Series), 1985. 696 pp. \$28.95.

Reviewed by William H. Reid, MD,
MPH

This book is designed primarily for the training of lawyers and mental health professionals in the legal aspects of mental health services, as well as in current legal structures designed to protect the mentally ill and society. The book contains many cases and very detailed

discussion of regulation, malpractice, informed consent, confidentiality, hospitalization, incompetency and guardianship, and mental health issues and the criminal process.

This is an incredibly useful reference text, produced by a major legal publisher. If you only consult it once or twice, it will be well worth the modest purchase price.