

Book Reviews

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS AND THE COURTS: AN EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED FORENSIC SERVICES. By GB Melton, LA Weithorn, and C Slobogin. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1985. vii + 168 pp. \$21.50.

Reviewed by James T. Barter, MD

This brief volume reports on the development of community-based forensic services in Virginia during the early 1980s. The authors present their experience in developing a pilot program, evaluating its implementation, and establishing its feasibility for widespread implementation. They are persuasive in their arguments for basing forensic services in community mental health clinics, especially in terms of cost efficiency, constitutional guarantees, and common sense. Their work is a model for how to develop complex innovative programs in the face of tradition, inertia, and occasional hostility.

One should read this book for the excellent guidance given in Chapters 6 and 7 rather than for the somewhat flawed research. The discussion of problems of program implementation (Chapter 6) recapitulates the issues that any innovative public program encounters and presents practical and logical solutions. The recommendations for establishing model systems (Chapter 7) should be of assistance to other states

that might contemplate creating forensic services at the local community mental health level.

The clear message of this book is that one should not underestimate the difficulty of inaugurating forensic services within community mental health clinics but that, if one pays attention to planning, training, coordination, political realities, and ongoing program evaluation, it is possible. Because innovative programs often wither with time, equal attention needs to be devoted to how to sustain them. One can only hope that the authors will give us a follow-up in a few years.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES—LAW AND PRACTICE. By L Gostin. London: Shaw & Sons, 1986. 1,000 pp. \$135.00.

Reviewed by
William H. Reid, MD, MPH

This is an extraordinary compendium, loose-leaf for future additions, of the interface of psychiatric care and treatment with the law in England. It includes a detailed description of the structure of British mental health services (including the organization of the National Health Service), procedures for hospitalization and guardianship, pro-

cedures related to treatment and discharge, patient rights, and procedures and issues related to criminal proceedings. There are five appendices, which review specific statutes, circulars, forms and records, and the like. The work is organized by section and subsection for easy access to each topic. The text is surprisingly readable, and in many ways is a translation of such things as the Mental Health Act of 1982 for the practitioner.

Although not a required text for the North American psychiatrist, it is a rather complete introduction to psychiatric and mental health practices in England. I should think it would be in every major medical and social service library on that side of the Atlantic.

THE TRIAL OF THE EXPERT: A STUDY OF EXPERT EVIDENCE AND FORENSIC EXPERTS. By IR Freckelton. New York: Oxford University Press, 1987. 289 pp. \$42.00.

Reviewed by
Ralph Slovenko, LLB, PhD

Ian R. Freckelton of Australia has written a splendid book on expert evidence. As indicated by the title, "The Trial of the Expert," Frankelton is concerned with the incompetency or irrelevancy of expert testimony. He would have judges exercise greater control over the admission of expert testimony.

In making his argument, Freckelton demonstrates thorough familiarity with

American jurisprudence. He immersed himself in American jurisprudence because he finds the U.S. experience the most instructive for the common law. Indeed, one would have to look hard and wide to find anywhere a more scholarly discussion of expert testimony. The shortcoming of the book is that, although it is tightly written, it is limited in the extent of discussion it gives to the wide-ranging topics it covers.

The book is at once a textbook of the rules of expert evidence and a critique of them. It provides a comprehensive statement of the law of expert evidence as it has evolved in courts and through legislation, in Australia and elsewhere in the common law world. With the expanding and controversial use of experts in the courtroom, it is a most timely and necessary book. The difficult issues presented by the emergence of new scientific ideas or devices are thoroughly examined.

The book is a delight to read. It is not another pedantic how-to manual. It is exceptionally well written. It is informative; it discusses many interesting cases, and it contains many provocative quotations. It has a special section on the nature and quality of the contribution by mental health professionals to legal proceedings.

Freckelton, a native of South Africa now living in Australia, is the Manager of Investigation at the Police Complaints Authority in Victoria. He was previously a Senior Legal Officer at the Australian Law Reform Commission and a Ministerially appointed member of the Southern Metropolitan Psychiatric Services Advisory Council in New South Wales.

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He has published extensively in journals in various countries.

THE CONFESSION: INTERROGATION AND CRIMINAL PROFILES FOR POLICE OFFICERS. By J Macdonald and D Michaud. Denver: Apache Press, 1987. vii + 200 pp. \$8.95.

Reviewed by
William H. Reid, MD, MPH

This is a short, interesting paperback intended for police officers who are interviewing criminal suspects. It contains a great deal of "practical," often anecdotal information. The various sections on profiles of criminals and criminal behavior may be of interest to some forensic psychiatrists. They are, however, presented in such a global, "this-is-the-way-it-is" manner (perhaps because this is best for police investigators) that many psychiatrists would question the evidence for such broad characterizations. Although the book is not required reading for all AAPL members, those involved in law enforcement consultation may find it quite valuable for its insights into police methods.

CONTEMPORARY STUDIES IN COMBAT PSYCHIATRY. Edited by G Belenky. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1987. xx + 271 pp. \$39.95.

Reviewed by Robert L. Vosburg, MD

This book reports observations of U.S., Russian, German, Israeli, French, and Chinese men in battle. It details the factors in the combat situation which increase psychiatric casualties. These are (1) surprise attacks, (2) low group cohesiveness, (3) fatigue, and (4) mission ambiguity. One study reports that men initially rejected as psychiatrically unfit performed in combat quite as heroically and effectively as those judged to be fit. Readers who have studied the posttraumatic stress syndrome will be interested to discover that the kind of combat called "low intensity" by the military is most likely to be followed by PTSD.

The evidence presented substantiates the belief that under sufficient duress every person will break down; however, there is little uniformity in the criteria used by various authors for "stress." Although this does not detract from the power of the evidence, it does make extrapolation to civilian circumstances or comparison with specific stress measures, such as the Holmes-Rahe scale, conjectural. The editor concludes, "... heroism, effective performance, ineffective performance and psychiatric casualties form a continuum and any factor that decreases heroism and effective performance increases ineffective performance and psychiatric casualties."

The book contains 15 chapters by different authors, as well as 14 illustrative figures and 38 tables. Reading between the lines, one can easily imagine these writers recalling their battle experiences as well as their dealings with the chain

of command. Happily, these psychiatrists and many others have demonstrated effectiveness at the front and earned the grudging respect of informed commanders. However, some people continue to hold the view that psychiatric breakdown is a product of bad heredity or chemistry. Such a point of view neglects the evidence for interpersonal causative factors. In sum, the book can be highly recommended as a contemporary review of the effects of stress upon performance.

UNDERSTANDING AND TREATING THE PSYCHOPATH (Wiley Series on Personality Processes). By DM Doren. New York: Wiley-Interscience, 1987. xiii + 269 pp. \$32.00.

Reviewed by
William H. Reid, MD, MPH

This book is an excellent, pithy discussion of five well-established "theories" regarding psychopathy (Gough, Eysenck, Quay, Hare, and "the integrative theory"). Each of these is discussed in terms of support from research, criticisms by other researchers, "additional comments," and a brief summary. After these discussions, both general and specific treatment issues are reviewed, with an emphasis on various forms of psychotherapy.

I have rarely seen such a well-organized, thoughtful, well-referenced discussion of psychopathy. Doren's con-

veying of knowledge, practical psychotherapeutic suggestions, and a refreshing optimism with regard to the treatment of characterological antisocial syndromes—particularly psychotherapeutic approaches—should be on every psychiatrist's and psychotherapist's bookshelf. Its relevance to the forensic psychiatrist is obvious.

WORK STRESS: HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS IN THE WORK PLACE. Edited by JC Quick, RS Bhagat, JE Dalton, and JD Quick. New York: Praeger, 1987. xvii + 329 pp. \$39.95.

Reviewed by
Robert B. Cahan, MA, MD

The editors, with their Steering Committee and 35 contributing authors, have produced a valuable introduction and reference to the subject of stresses in the workplace. The result, from a 1983 conference, is a readable, informative, exceptionally well-organized, and mostly complete presentation of this challenging and often controversial subject. The individual authors have gone well beyond their conference presentations, adding recent references and coordinated perspectives.

The volume is sensibly organized into sections on research and practice, discussion of work stressors, prevention and intervention, and therapeutic interventions. Chapters of particular interest to AAPL readers include Alan A. Mc-

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Lean's comments on *MacKenzie vs. General Motors* (394 Mich. 473-474) in which the Michigan Supreme Court reversed an appellate reversal and agreed that a worker's honest belief that the consequences of the stress of work had caused disability could be compensable. In "Neuroendocrine Effects of Work Stress," Robert M. Rose describes the recent research and findings of the mechanisms by which individuals react and recoup under stress. An attorney, Gilbert T. Adams, Jr., deals with legal trends and compensation payments for stress-disabled workers, giving dozens of excellent citations organized by state. The list is primarily composed of cases from the 1980s.

The book is a valuable resource for those interested in creating industrial programs for treatment or disability evaluation and for the individual psychiatric practitioner who provides psychotherapy to workers reporting symptoms of work stressors. Forensic psychiatrists preparing workers' compensation examination reports will value the sections dealing with the bases and the mechanisms explaining or contradicting any industrial causation of disabling mental disorders. Overall, there is much in the book for the psychiatric practitioner despite its being directed to those involved in health care systems.

RECOVERING FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURIES. By WA Barton. Washington, DC: Association of Trial

Lawyers of America, 1985. 169 pp. Price not available.

Reviewed by Robert L. Sadoff, MD

This book is written by a lawyer specifically for plaintiffs' attorneys in personal injury cases. Written in cookbook style, the book contains 18 brief chapters with topics ranging from psychoanalytic concepts to worker's compensation remedies. Most of the chapters are designed to present strategic and tactical maneuvers for plaintiffs' attorneys. It is well written, concise, and practical, written by an attorney who acknowledges the pragmatic rather than the theoretical approach. It is clearly biased in favor of the plaintiff.

What is useful for the psychiatrist working in this area is to recognize the questions put to the "causation expert." The author points out some of the weaknesses in expert witness reports and psychiatric examinations, such as knowing little of the plaintiff's working conditions or his specific relationships with others in his environment. These factors appear to be important in such cases and should be included in a truly comprehensive forensic psychiatric examination.

The value of this book to forensic psychiatrists is to help them to include items in their reports that would differentiate their forensic psychiatric examinations from regular or general psychiatric evaluations. It is these differences that may be important when presenting a case to the jury.

PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS IN THE MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONS. By S Knapp and L VandeCreek. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1987. 208 pp. \$27.95.

Reviewed by
Stanley L. Portnow, MD, JD

This volume is an important sourcebook on privileged communications. It presents a broad outline of the topic, including a clear exposition of the legal theories behind the origin of privilege law from common law and statutory privileges to constitutional trends. There is a very useful appendix outlining each state's statutes on privilege. In addition the authors discuss the usual application of privilege to criminal and civil law with

pertinent case citations. Although some of the material is cursory at best, other areas, e.g., Mental Health Professionals and the Attorney-Client Privilege, are detailed and precise. The authors do not hesitate to raise and discuss the less well-known problems of confidentiality as they pertain to patients' records and the needs of health regulatory boards, peer review committees investigating physicians, investigations of welfare fraud/abuse, and problems of confidentiality in group and family therapy.

This is a valuable addition to the forensic psychiatric library. It presents a clear and well-written comprehensive review in a single handbook of privilege laws and how they apply to mental health professionals on every important topic relevant to privileged communications.