

Books Reviewed

landmark "extreme emotional disturbance" case, an EED defense is valid if "a significant mental trauma has affected a defendant's mind for a substantial period of time, simmering in the unknowing unconscious, and then explicitly coming to the fore." The appellate attorney who represented Patterson says that "Jean Harris is the person that defense was written for."

Perhaps there was another reason that an EED defense was not used, however. As a beneficiary standing to receive some \$220,000 under the terms of Dr. Tarnower's will, Harris would lose her claim to the money and also rights to the proceeds from subsequent book rights (under New York's newly enacted "Son of Sam" law, which provides that any such proceeds are to be given to the victim's estate) if she was convicted of intentional homicide.

On November 16, 1982, a unanimous New York Court of Appeals dismissed Harris's second claim for a new trial. The Court commented: "It has long been recognized that, although all trials must be fair, few can be described as perfect. . . .(W)e are convinced that, although Jean Harris did not receive a perfect trial, she received an eminently fair one. Nothing more is required." □

LITHIUM ENCYCLOPEDIA FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE. By J.W. Jefferson, J.H. Greist, and D.L. Ackerman. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Press, 1983, xviii + 319 Pp.

Reviewed by William H. Reid, MD

As John M. Davis states in the foreword to this inch-thick, spiral-bound text, the amount of scientific information available to the clinician "has grown at an exponential rate" for the past couple of decades. *Lithium Encyclopedia* has used computer programs to search the literature and prepare a surprisingly readable, very useful volume. The text is divided into very short (as little as one page) sections that address about one hundred topics related to lithium. They are alphabetical, with a range of "acidification and renal tubular acidosis" to "weight gain."

Many of the briefer sections provide little information of any clinical use. For example, the twelve-line section on benzodiazepines and lithium briefly mentions five studies: three are animal studies, one a case report, and one a review article. The controversial topic of lithium and the kidney is treated in at least four separate sections, rather than as one topic. While this may fit the computerized bibliography pattern, it is an example of the patchwork nature of references such as this.

In general, this is an important book for the clinician. The forensic psychiatrist who becomes involved in cases involving lithium will want to have it available as a personal reference or for legal colleagues. □