

## BOOKS REVIEWED

**AUTOEROTIC FATALITIES.** By RR Hazelwood, PE Dietz, and AW Burgess. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, 1983. \$24.95.

Reviewed by Helen L. Morrison, MD

The authors, wisely, end the preface to this volume with the following statements: "Do not attempt any of the autoerotic activities described or depicted in this monograph. These activities are inherently dangerous and carry a risk of death. There is no reason to believe that these activities are pleasurable to the ordinary person and there is every reason to believe that they may prove fatal."

There are nine chapters that comprise this volume. Many of the chapters are replete with case reports, many of which would not be uncommon, or unfamiliar, to those who practice in the field of forensic medicine and law enforcement. The reference listing is complete and will provide the reader with a comprehensive view of this important field of study. The topic of autoerotic fatalities is covered in this volume to a degree not seen in previously published works. Its multidisciplinary approach provides a view of collaborative efforts.

What is new is the attempt to structure the "scattered and often contradictory professional literature." Quantitative generalizations are made by the authors who caution that the sample presented in this volume is not statistically representative. This volume will be of interest to a wide range of individuals who find themselves in need of a concise presentation of this intriguing topic.

**FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY: A PRIMER FOR LEGAL AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.** By RK Green and AB Schaefer. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, 1984. xi + 275 pp. \$28.50.

Reviewed by Richard Rogers, PhD

*Forensic Psychology*, although aimed for both legal and mental health audiences, is likely to stir only moderate interest in the legal community and little or no interest among psychiatrists and psychologists. The major

position of the book is an introduction to clinical psychology, outlining in a clear but rudimentary manner psychologic evaluations, treatment, and personality theory. The remainder of the book provides a cursory overview of basic forensic psychologic issues. With respect to legal issues, there is a heavy reliance on secondary sources and inaccuracies in the discussion. For example, irresistible impulse is mistakenly described in terms of diminished responsibility.

The strength of the book lies in two chapters on psychologic testing by Dr. Schaefer which provide a clear and concise summary of these methods. Although additional literature could have been cited on the relevance of these procedures to forensic psychology, the coverage as a whole, is generally accurate and useful for mental health attorneys.

**HANDBOOK OF SCALES FOR RESEARCH IN CRIME AND DELINQUENCY.** By SL Brodsky and HO Smitherman. New York: Plenum Press, 1982. xiii + 615 pp. \$42.50

Reviewed by Bruce Harry, MD

Brodsky and Smitherman have compiled numerous scales useful to the investigator, many of which could be useful to the forensic psychiatrist or psychologist interested in population-based research. Their main presentation is prefaced by several brief chapters that discuss the needs for such collections, others' previous efforts, selection of the scales, using the book, and ethical issues involving the protection of human subjects during ratings research. The authors then begin with a chapter on MMPI and CPI special scales useful to criminology. Subsequent chapters focus upon different areas in the criminal justice system and respectively present the ratings instruments most specifically applicable to those areas. There is also a chapter devoted to generally applicable instruments.

Although the authors were unable to include all the scales mentioned, they offer citations for each instrument that direct interested investigators to the scale's original source. However, they included many scales with permission. Each included scale is accompanied by more detailed discussion on its development and characteristics and an analysis of existing information on the scale's norms, reliability, and validity. Additional references are given for each scale.

It is difficult to criticize such books because they ease the burdens upon researchers and tend to be noncontroversial. Perhaps this book's structural