

## Book Reviews

**SOCIAL ORDER/MENTAL DISORDER: ANGLO-AMERICAN PSYCHIATRY IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE.** By Andrew Scull. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989, xi + 360 pp.

Reviewed by Ronald F. White, PhD

*Social Order/Mental Disorder* is a collection of thirteen essays previously published by Scull between 1975 and 1987: all but one first appeared before 1985, many in journals outside of the discipline of history. As one might expect from such anthologies, there is virtually no continuity between the chapters, nor have the essays been revised or updated in light of the excellent research conducted in the last five years by American and British scholars (e.g., Ann Digby, Ellen Dwyer, Roy Porter, and Nancy Tomes). Moreover, conventional historians will find fault with Scull's eccentric use of historical documentation, heavy reliance on secondary sources, and excessive use of long quotes. It is also rather surprising that although the author is by occupation a sociologist, presumably familiar with quantitative methodology, very little statistical evidence is presented in support of his views.

**SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.**

Edited by Glen O. Gabbard. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Press, Inc., 1989. 257 pp. \$28.50.

Reviewed by Howard W. Telson, MD

Psychotherapists must never have sex with their patients. That is the unqualified message of this collection, which comprehensively explores the questions around relationships that begin as professional and then, one way or another, become sexual. The first three chapters attempt to quantify the prevalence of sexual relations between patients and psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers, respectively. The next selections examine reasons for and consequences of sexual boundary violations, and provide models for treating both victims and aggressors. The final section considers forms of sexual exploitation outside of traditional psychotherapy.

The papers are not directed at one specific audience, and many cover the same information. Their quality also varies considerably: some of their data seem highly unreliable, and the tone can be offensively moralistic. However, the volume is valuable for a number of clearly written essays which suggest practical approaches without sacrificing the complexity of their topics. Fortunately, among those are three of special interest to the forensic psychiatrist: "Medicolegal Aspects of Professional Sexual Exploitation," by Irwin N. Perr; "Therapist-Patient Sex Syndrome: A Guide for At-

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torneys and Subsequent Therapists to Assessing Damage," by Kenneth B. Pope; and "Sexual Intimacies After Termination: Clinical, Ethical, and Legal Aspects," by Pope and Glen O. Gabbard.

The best piece is "The Lovesick Therapist," in which Gabbard and Stuart W. Twemlow offer insights into a fascinating and too little discussed pathology. They successfully demonstrate why, despite proscriptions from the Hippocratic Oath to the APA Code of Ethics to the book under review, there will always be therapists who seduce patients.

**INFORMED CONSENT: LEGAL THEORY AND CLINICAL PRACTICE.** By Paul S. Appelbaum, Charles W. Lidz, and Alan Meisel. New York: Oxford University Press, 1987. 269 pp. \$29.95

Reviewed by Howard H. Fenn, MD

Informed consent, like depletion of the ozone layer, is a subject about which we are concerned but rarely take time to understand. The authors, who collectively have studied the topic for more than 30 years, have produced a comprehensive, well-written, and organized volume which caters to this dilemma.

Chapters in Part I deal with the clinical context out of which informed consent questions arise and its underlying ethical principles. Part II contains the legal theory behind the concept, such as legal requirements for disclosure, the

history of these requirements, and exceptions to them (emergency, waiver, therapeutic privilege, and incompetence.) Rules governing patients' redress in the courts and critiques of the law of informed consent are explained. Part III describes two alternative models to the application of informed consent in the clinical setting. This section also has a chapter on consent forms and another on patients who refuse treatment. Finally, Part IV discusses the topic of consent in the research setting.

I recommend this book for anyone exposed to our current medico-legal atmosphere and its litigious effects.

**CURRENT APPROACHES TO THE PREDICTION OF VIOLENCE.** Edited by D. Brizer and M. Crowner. Washington DC: American Psychiatric Press Inc., 1989, 170 pp. \$22.95

Reviewed by J. Douglas Crowder, MD

Drs. Brizer and Crowner, faculty members of the New York School of Medicine, have edited an excellent volume for mental health professionals concerned with understanding the research and practice of predicting violence. The bibliography contains over 400 entries although many are redundant. The book seeks to give an overview rather than in-depth treatment of this difficult issue. It is a welcome and concise guide to the perplexing research and pseudo-research that characterize this arena.

Chapters address short-term violence prediction, career criminal violence, and a more thorough presentation of the various dimensions of inpatient psychiatric violence. Dr. David Bear provides the rudiments of neurochemical regulation of aggressive behavior. The effect of child abuse/neglect on criminal violence and the relationship of schizophrenic psychopathology to violence are also considered. Another section offers a broad critique of, and suggestions for, research techniques.

*Current Approaches to the Prediction of Violence* is a livelier treatment of the issues than the paradoxically sterile prose usually found in similar works. Though research issues are described competently, clinical application of theory is clearly in the forefront of the editors' thinking. The only disappointing feature of the book is its shallow treatment of criminal violence. Nevertheless, it must be considered a very useful reference for clinicians concerned with physical aggression.

THE DISTURBED VIOLENT OFFENDER. By H. Toch and K. Adams, New Haven and London; Yale University Press, 1989, 177 pp. plus index \$22.50.

Reviewed by William E. Foster, MD

By combining a roster of new admissions to the New York State correctional system for violent offences with the computerized records of the state-operated psychiatric facilities, the authors are able to discern persons who have careers both as patients and prison inmates. Using cluster analysis, 27 types of violent offenders are defined.

This is an impressive reference work for all who are charged with the problem of attempting to predict actual or potentially violent behavior. It should be able to find its place in the libraries of both correctional and mental health facilities.