

Book Reviews

THE PSYCHOTHERAPIST'S DUTY TO WARN OR PROTECT. By AR Felthous. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas, 1989. 178 pp. \$35.75.

Reviewed by Paul S. Appelbaum, MD

Since the initial California Supreme Court decision in *Tarasoff v. Regents of the University of California* in 1974 ((*Tarasoff I*) 529 P.2d 553 (Cal. 1974)), the duty to protect potential victims of patients' violent acts has developed into a complex field of study in its own right. Alan Felthous' monograph reminds us just how many permutations have developed from the original principle that "When a psychotherapist determines, or pursuant to the standards of his profession should determine, that his patient presents a serious danger of violence to another, he incurs an obligation to use reasonable care to protect the intended victim. . . ."

Felthous reviews the major published cases based on the *Tarasoff* model, differentiating them by the approaches they take concerning when a duty to protect exists. He then considers some of the doctrinal strands that run through the cases and their logic or lack thereof. There is a useful consideration of the clinical issues that arise in dealing with these cases, along with several case examples from the author's practice. Finally, the public policy issues are addressed, with the author making a good case for statutory definitions of when the

duty is invoked and how it may be discharged.

As a new generation of *Tarasoff*-related issues arise, dealing with protecting victims of patients who are dangerous drivers or HIV seropositive and the like, it is worthwhile to reflect along with Felthous on the peregrinations of law in this area over the last two decades.

ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT OF ADDICTIVE DISORDERS. Edited by TB Baker and DS Cannon. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1988. 302 pp.

Reviewed by Allen L. Hueston, MD

Drs. Baker and Cannon have collected a diverse series of articles in their book *Assessment and Treatment of Addictive Disorders*. They have gathered a behaviorally based compendium of articles on addictive diseases. The chapters encompass alcoholism, bulimia, nicotine dependence, and heroin addiction. Several of the authors have provided detailed discussions of the treatment components of behavioral therapy. I found the chapter on self-regulatory failure by Dr. Daniel Kirchenbaum particularly informative.

The chapters are well written and the book is readable and informative. However, the book is not comprehensive. Chapters from individual authors do not flow into following chapters, but this appears to be a drawback of all edited books. *Assessment and Treatment of Addictive Disorders* would augment one's existing behavior psychology library.