**Book reviews**

**EDITED BY SIDNEY CROWN, FEMI OYEBODE and ROSALIND RAMSAY**

**Textbook in Psychiatric Epidemiology (2nd edn)**

This is the second edition of a textbook first published in 1995. Like the first, it developed out of the Harvard Program in Psychiatric Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Like all second editions, it has expanded: from 483 pages to 722 and from 20 chapters to 24. Continuity has been maintained between the editions by having most of the original authors provide updates to their chapters.

This is clearly an American textbook. At one level this is entirely reasonable, as the USA is easily able to assemble authors of the highest quality in this, as in every other, mainstream academic field. However, it was a criticism aimed at the first edition that it had a strong, perhaps over-strong, American focus. The editors have tried to remedy this (6 of the 48 authors are now European, of whom 4 are based in Britain). However, the American slant remains. It is apparent in the studies referenced and in the theoretical positions adopted. Thus, the only references to the British and Australian national surveys of psychiatric disorder are in Jane Murphy’s chapter on methodology whereas the American National Comorbidity Survey, for all its difficulties, has a chapter to itself. There is also something of a biological preference, which Europeans in particular are probably moving away from. This is illustrated in the (generally very good) chapter on the epidemiology of schizophrenia, where the evidence regarding the impact of stress on the development of psychosis is considerably downplayed. The chapter on methods in psychiatric genetics, by Faraone *et al*., stands out by its open-handedness regarding the role of the environment.

For readers from Europe or elsewhere outside the USA, the North American focus probably does not matter, as they will be exposed to other viewpoints and other studies. It may, however, matter for the American reader who will not be encouraged by this book to see outside the circle.

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**Drugs and Addictive Behaviour. A Guide to Treatment (3rd edn)**

In a world of electronic media and evidence-based medicine, the role of the single-author textbook has been questioned. Once a staple educational tool for trainees and practising psychiatrists alike, such books are said to lag behind current practice and so are no longer useful reference sources. This issue has been acknowledged in the latest edition of this well-known British textbook on drug misuse. As a nod to evidence-based medicine, references have been included in the text for the first time and, overall, this new approach provides a useful stimulus to further study. However, this is not the reason that this book deserves a place on the bookshelves of anyone with an interest in helping to tackle the problems of drug misuse.

The author is well-known to British and international audiences for his contributions to both the research and political agendas within the drug treatment field. However, it is the wealth of clinical experience that he conveys in the text that I found most useful. Not only does the book contain standard chapters on assessment, complications of drug misuse and methods of intervention, but also it adapts this information to real-life settings. A chapter devoted to ‘special problems’ covers practical issues such as drug-dependent patients on medical wards, in the accident and emergency department and in police custody. An excellent description of the various biological and psychological modalities of treatment is accompanied by ‘fine detail’ such as advice to give patients about driving licences or the legal implications of travelling abroad with prescription medication. The section on the drug-misusing doctor is both relevant and timely.

The book is unashamedly British in its outlook, but this is essential in a field where many key issues are not easily transported from elsewhere. However, the author is able to draw on his extensive knowledge of international issues in the substance misuse...
field to enrich the sections on epidemiology, the prevention of drug misuse and the law and drug control policies. This is not the text to turn to for a detailed description of the neurobiology of drugs of misuse, or for an account of genetic theories of causation. Furthermore, despite its title, the book does not stray much beyond addiction to prescription and illegal drugs, although the inclusion of a chapter on alcohol is relevant in the current climate. However, when it comes to applying the evidence to the real-life clinical situations that face a psychiatrist working with people who use illegal drugs, this book reaches the parts that a systematic review-driven approach cannot always reach.

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**Studies in the Assessment of Parenting**


*Studies in the Assessment of Parenting* aims to provide a practical guide to professionals who offer expert opinions to the courts in child care cases and to inform day-to-day work in child protection and in enhancing the care of children within their families. Most of the contributors are child and adolescent psychiatrists, but there are chapters by a psychologist, a forensic psychiatrist and a judge. The book is divided into four parts: ‘Principles and practice’, which offers a framework for assessment, including the problem of cultural matching between assessor and family; ‘The child’s perspective’, in which attachment, significant dimensions of harm, the reliability of child witnesses and the views of children are addressed; ‘Assessing parents’, which focuses on specific parent groups, for example adolescents, violent individuals and parents with personality disorders; and ‘Recommendations’, which looks at parental denial, contact arrangements, foster care and adoption, and includes also a chapter in which an experienced judge outlines his role in weighing up a case and applying the law.

Much will be familiar territory for those working in child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS). However, this book will be of value to higher trainees in CAMHS and other professionals new to this area of work. As a general adult psychiatrist increasingly being called upon to offer expert opinion in relation to maternal mental health in child care cases, I found much of it to be helpful and it will be invaluable to adult psychiatry colleagues who find themselves being asked for an expert opinion. However, other than a very good chapter by Christopher Cordess on parents with personality disorder, there is very little detail on parents with mental illness, which is often reduced to the phrase ‘underlying psychopathology’. Concentrating on the legal system in England and Wales, the contributors only occasionally refer to equivalent legislation and almost never to alternative processes in other parts of the UK, which makes parts of this book less useful to professionals in those countries.

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**Handbook of Affective Sciences**


This is an outstanding textbook which summarises progress on research in the affective sciences up to about the year 2001. It is a remarkable piece of scholarship and the authors are to be congratulated on having the vision, determination and drive to carry through this project. The individual chapters are well written, but one of the great strengths of the book is that each section is introduced by an overview that draws together the main themes and each has been written with great clarity. There is also evidence of strong editorship in that the volume does not suffer from the usual problems of multi-authored texts with excessive overlap and repetition, and if there are contradictions these are highlighted rather than ignored.

The volume has an excellent introduction which sets the scene and explains the difficult task the authors had in deciding which areas to cover. The introduction contains working definitions of the various phenomena that were targets of enquiry within this handbook (emotions, mood, attitudes, affective style and temperament). The authors make the point that affective science is at the stage where cognitive psychology/neuroscience was at 20 years ago and which is now the most rapidly growing and largest multidisciplinary field in behavioural science today. One can imagine that the publication of this handbook may lead to a similar growth in affective science research.

The book starts with a review of the relevant neuroscience research, followed by accounts of the impact of genetics and development on affect. There are strong sections on the expression and cognitive components of emotion. Finally, the text deals with emotion and affect in their evolutionary, cultural and social contexts as well as their links with ‘health’ and with ‘psychiatry’. Psychiatrists are often uncertain about what psychologists do and are particularly puzzled by the psychology questions in the MRCPsych examinations. Although this volume will not solve the former problem nor provide many answers for the latter, it reveals that conceptually and scientifically psychology research is well advanced and making a real impact on our understanding of complex and ramified topics.

Inevitably with such a large canvas there is some unevenness. I would have liked to have seen a lot more on the genetic underpinnings of emotion and affect but perhaps the editors have given this topic
Appropriate emphasis given the quality of the available evidence base. There has to be some delay in publication (perhaps not surprisingly, given the size and complexity of the volume) and the most recent references are to the year 2001. The field is expanding so rapidly that I urge the editors to start a new edition, constantly updating in a manner akin to painting the Forth Bridge.

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Substance Misuse in Psychosis. Approaches to Treatment and Service Delivery
Edited by Hermine L. Graham, Alex Copello, Max J. Birchwood & Kim T. Mueser.

The high prevalence of alcohol and drug misuse in those with psychiatric illness is apparent to all who work within adult psychiatry. Traditionally, mental health and addiction services have operated in parallel. Differences between the two services in terms of organisation, geographical location and philosophy of care have often meant that patients have fallen between the two, leading to frustration for patients, families and staff. The past 10 years have seen increased understanding of the reasons for this comorbidity, the development of innovative integrated treatment services and the introduction of new treatments for substance misuse. This book provides a comprehensive review of these developments.

The book is divided into five parts. The first serves as an introduction, and begins with two chapters on the epidemiology of substance misuse in psychosis and the temporal relationship between the two. This is followed by three excellent chapters looking at family, social and cognitive conceptualisations, the first of which highlights the relationship between substance misuse in psychosis and the patient’s family and social networks, including the role of expressed emotion. The sociological perspective that follows makes some interesting points in relation to stigma and the negative attitudes held not only by the public but also by clinicians managing this group of patients. In the first part’s final chapter, Hermine L. Graham emphasises the importance of a cognitive formulation in managing patients, and how it can be used to generate hypotheses that can be tested and act as a guide for treatment interventions.

Part 2 reviews integrated service models, including community-based and inpatient treatment programmes. Examples are provided from the USA and the UK, including the Combined Psychosis and Substance Use (COMPASS) programme in north Birmingham. Part 3 considers assessment and treatment approaches such as cognitive–behavioural therapy, group therapy and family interventions. There is a single chapter on pharmacological approaches, which, although well written, is too short, with the result that many key areas are skinned over. The editors should consider expanding this chapter in a future edition. Part 4 considers the needs of special populations, including the homeless and those with HIV/AIDS. Part 5 examines treatment outcome studies and looks towards future developments.

Over forty authors, mainly from the USA and the UK, have contributed. The editors have ensured that throughout the material remains clinically relevant, and many chapters employ illustrative case reports to good effect. This is a well-planned and well-written book, and I recommend it.

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Child Psychiatry and Psychology: An Introduction

This book integrates developmental child psychology and an introduction to child psychiatry in a modestly sized guide to clinical practice by packing information into succinct chapters and excellent summarising tables. It spans normal development, assessment, family and genetic influences, classification, developmental and psychiatric disorders, management and treatment issues, and child psychiatry and the law. The authoritative contributors produce chapters that are easy to digest.

The assessment section offers excellent chapters on the assessment of psychiatric disorders in children, developmental paediatric and specialist neuropsychological assessment, IQ testing and scales to measure behavioural and emotional adjustment in children and their families. Summaries of other models that often contribute to a psychiatric assessment...
and formulation are not given here but can be found in later chapters on treatments. The emphasis in the assessment chapters is therefore on establishing a diagnosis; factors other than diagnosis that influence treatment choice, such as emotional literacy, motivation and patient/family preference, are not mentioned.

The structure of the book is clear and informative in itself. The chapters on groups of child psychiatric disorders are particularly useful as they cover the contemporary scientific understanding of childhood psychopathology alongside necessary aspects of clinical assessment and current evidence-based treatments. Summaries of topics such as the heritability of specific conditions also make this a useful reference book. Packing so much into 190 pages is quite an editorial feat.

For readers seeking an introduction to this clinical area, an additional chapter on multidisciplinary services might have been helpful, especially as most child psychiatrists and many child psychologists work within the context of multidisciplinary teams, albeit teams that vary in their constituents and their functions. This book is most useful for practising psychologists and psychiatrists, because, through it, experts in their field give us an up-to-date understanding of what is known about disorders and assessment in our clinical area, especially from a neurodevelopmental perspective. It is when dealing with what is not known – a clinical area where there is little evidence, or diagnostic and therapeutic uncertainty – that the reader will need to refer to other resources on the ‘art’ (p. xi) of clinical practice.

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Studies in the Assessment of Parenting
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