



WHAT IS CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY?

John S. Marzillier and John Hall (Eds)
Oxford University Press (1987)
 297 pages. Price £20.00 (h/b); £9.95 (p/b)

Clinical psychologists now work in virtually all parts of Britain and this book provides a comprehensive overview of current practice. It is essentially a collection of chapters about the work of clinical psychologists in particular fields written by experienced practitioners. These areas include well-established ones such as work with adults, children and the mentally handicapped and rehabilitation, as well as newly emerging ones such as work with the elderly, physical health, physical handicap and primary care. The introductory chapter describes the history of the profession, the training and how clinical psychologists work, while the final one summarizes current trends. Each chapter is self-contained, but all are easily accessible to the non-specialist, with plenty of case examples and snippets of relevant research. References are kept to a minimum although suggestions for further reading are made. Jargon is largely avoided and a glossary defines key terms.

This book is undoubtedly the best description of contemporary British clinical psychology available. It will prove invaluable to those considering clinical psychology as a profession, but also can be dipped into. For example, the chapter on primary care would be of interest to many general practitioners, especially in view of recent government proposals for making it feasible for them to employ clinical psychologists directly.

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COMMUNITY CARE IN BRITAIN

Variations on a theme
David Hunter and Gerald Wistow
King Edward's Hospital Fund, London (1987)
 182 pages. Price £9.50

The main theme of the book is policy-making. The authors compare the arrangements in Scotland, Wales and England, analyse policy intentions and outcomes and offer explanations for differences between the countries. The study focusses on policies for community care.

There are comparisons of current administrative arrangements for policy-making in the three countries and the development and implementation of community care policies in general, and for the mentally handicapped in particular. There is also a careful assessment of the evidence on the impact of joint planning and financial incentives on local collaboration. The conclusion points to limited but uneven development in all three countries and real differences in policy in spite of claims to policy uniformity.

The authors conclude that least progress has occurred in Scotland. Strong health professional interests and a 'hands-off' approach to policy-making among officials are two factors which have helped to produce a continuing *de facto* pre-eminence for

institutional care. Most progress in community care for the mentally handicapped has occurred in Wales. The authors point to a philosophy of normalization, helped by the involvement of non-health professionals and a committed Secretary of State. England may have seen more progress in other aspects of community care, where there has been considerable emphasis on joint planning.

The book is useful for those who wish to keep abreast of developments in community care. It provides a useful reminder of the continuing ability of health service personnel to 're-interpret' policy to suit their interests and objectives, whatever the local form of government.

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PROBLEMS IN DOCTOR/PATIENT ENCOUNTERS (Video)

Royal Society of Medicine, London (1987)
 Price £316.25 (complete series), £23.00 (introductory tape),
 £42.55 (individual case studies), £103.50 (set of three)

'Take note of the patient, and the patient is more likely to take note'. This may sound like reinventing the wheel but this is part of the 'new thinking' on the consultation. So too is the suggestion that doctors should try to provide 'reactive explanations' for diagnosis and advice, responding to and building on the patient's own ideas.

This new series of 11 VHS videos, an introductory tape and 10 individual case studies, is produced jointly by the Royal Society of Medicine and the University of Liverpool. The series sets out to provide a 'learning resource' by applying recent research findings to everyday general practice and to illustrate, by recorded interviews and consultations, the principles of the lay perspective and reactive explanations.

The introductory tape is rather ponderous and unnecessarily long-winded. However, the individual case studies provide a fascinating insight into the wide variety of different presentations and approaches possible for any one case. There are few cases where the answer is clear and straightforward and many that will provoke valuable discussion between health professionals in primary health care teams.

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SLEEP AND AGEING

Kevin Morgan
Croom Helm, London (1987)
 151 pages. Price £19.95

James Mackenzie once wrote that for the intelligent practice of medicine the simplification of medicine is necessary. *Sleep and ageing* by Kevin Morgan simplifies without being simplistic and manages in the space of 150 pages to tell us all we need to know about this interesting subject, so important for general practi-