

be suitable for audit are not emphasized. If child health surveillance is worth doing, it should be done well and be seen to be done well from within and outside practice.

That aside this book is essential for any practice which is committed to good child health as well as the care of childhood illness. It is a timely publication and should obviate the need for publishers to reprint other older texts yet again.

JOHN E HANDLEY

General practitioner, Livingston, West Lothian

THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

Carers in three minority ethnic communities in Southwark

Joy Ann McCalman

Kings Fund Centre, London (1990)

80 pages. Price £4.45

This short book describes a study of carers among three ethnic minority groups in Southwark: afro-caribbean, asian and vietnamese/chinese. The community care bill makes this study useful reading for anyone involved with black or other ethnic minority groups. We all know that many white carers are not getting the help they need in terms of finance, support, respite and information. It is therefore hardly surprising that poverty, isolation and exhaustion are revealed among the ethnic minority groups studied. For a variety of reasons, carers in ethnic minority groups are not benefiting from the services which are available. Language barriers and direct discrimination result in the under provision of housing, heating, respite/holidays and other services for these carers.

The forgotten people makes specific recommendations for different caring services, including primary care. It encourages the provision of more information and more accessible services; better understanding of carers' needs; employment of black and other ethnic minority staff in surgeries; and the use of interpreting/advocacy services. These recommendations are

applicable to all primary health care teams working with ethnic minorities.

KATY GARDNER

General practitioner, Toxteth, Liverpool

CHILD PSYCHIATRY AND THE LAW

Dora Black, Stephen Wolkind and Jean Harris Hendriks (eds)

Royal College of Psychiatrists, London (1989)

178 pages. Price £10.00

This book is primarily written for child psychiatrists and paediatricians, and gives clear guidance on the preparation of reports for court proceedings covering the welfare of children. Though written from a medical standpoint, much of the information is highly relevant to other professionals involved in child care legislation such as social workers and court welfare officers. The text is clear and concise and the book is a most useful reference for professionals in the medico-legal field.

By virtue of their often intimate knowledge of family relationships and the health of family members over a prolonged period, general practitioners can provide vital information about children in their homes or foster homes and about other family members. This fact appears to have been overlooked by the authors who do not include the general practitioner on the list of people who might be contacted by the person preparing a report on a child for the court. It is less common for general practitioners to advise the court directly but when such an occasion does arise they would be well advised to read this book beforehand.

Child legislation is complex and this book should be available in local postgraduate centre libraries. Individual general practitioners are unlikely to need it sufficiently often for it to be a worthwhile purchase, though larger group practices might find it useful.

ANGELA DOUGLAS

General practitioner, Woodbury, Exeter

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