

appeal for more accurate diagnosis at the general practitioner level and the removal of stigma to facilitate early treatment, hopefully reducing the number of chronically depressed patients. This latter concept is prophetic of the joint 'defeat depression' campaign of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and Royal College of General Practitioners. Inevitably there are terms and phrases in this book which jar on modern ears such as the use of 'case' rather than patient and diagnostic terms which have long since become unfashionable. The emphasis throughout, however is on practical measures, so much remains that is useful to modern clinicians such as the illustrative cases which demonstrate the keen perception of the authors and carry easily remembered clinical messages.

Academically the book is of high quality and it is well presented and readable with a useful index and informative tables. It should be read by today's doctors not only for its historical interest but for the distilled wisdom derived from long and thoughtful clinical experience.

A F WRIGHT

Editor, British Journal of General Practice

PSYCHIATRY AND GENERAL PRACTICE TODAY

Ian Pullen, Greg Wilkinson, Alastair Wright and Denis Pereira Gray (eds)

Royal College of Psychiatrists/Gaskell and Royal College of General Practitioners, London (1994)

383 pages. Price £17.50

This is an important book for general practice and psychiatry focusing on the interface between them. Written jointly by the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Royal College of General Practitioners, it has two psychiatrist and two general practitioner editors (including both editors of the royal college journals). Contributors include nine general practitioners, 15 psychiatrists and a clinical psychologist who have produced 24 chapters covering the context of the two disciplines, 12 chapters on clinical problems, several discussions on psychosocial management and a round-up on training and research.

This book is a must for any practice teaching library and would be ideal for any general practitioner depressed by present practice doldrums who would welcome stimulation, invigoration and a challenge. I turned to two topics of current relevance to me — cognitive therapy and the newer antidepressants — and was not disappointed (although the use of monoamine-oxidase inhibitors was discussed in the chapter on anxiety). I was, however, surprised to read that 'Psychiatric discharge planning conferences are frequently attended by GPs', that under police aspects of the mental health act only section 135 is mentioned, and a chapter on depression failed to mention Arthur Watts' 1966 book *Depressive disorders in the community* or indeed make any reference to Watts. I found it difficult to agree with the classification of schizophrenia as a mood disorder or paraphrenia as a behavioural disorder, and section two, I believe, has a duration of 28 days not 28 hours.

Overall, however, I found this an excellent, thoughtful, provocative book which brought together coherently in one volume much that was previously scattered in the literature. I commend it for reading, consulting and as a starting point for further work in this important field.

ROBIN STEEL

General practitioner, Worcester

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