

years', and that substantial additions have been made to each chapter. This makes a strong case for discarding well-thumbed copies of the second edition.

The relationship between sociology and psychiatry has mostly been an uneasy one. From the 1960s, under strong Marxist influences such as that of Foucault (who was really a philosopher), sociologists mostly tended to ride the 'anti-psychiatry' bandwagon. They denounced psychiatrists as agents of social control who were ignorant or dismissive of their patients' social context and of cultural influences on psychological disorders. Eaton was different, in coming from the 'mental hygiene' tradition and, in the footsteps of Morton Kramer, having an outstanding knowledge of the epidemiology of mental disorders. This difference from mainstream sociology can be seen particularly in his clear, jargon-free style as well as in the lack of doctrinal influence.

Among psychiatrists, the target readership of this text will be senior trainees, but consultants may wish to refresh their minds with it for continuing professional development; social work students and those doing advanced nursing courses would also find it very useful, although not necessarily recommended by their teachers. With the closure of many mental hospitals, specialist psychiatric libraries may now be much fewer, but libraries for health professionals should certainly find room for it. It is very adequately illustrated with figures and tables.

The most important sections include: the social construction of bizarre behaviour (e.g. mental disorder in non-Western culture); the methods of epidemiology; stress and depressive disorder; social selection and drift; theories of collective behaviour; and diffusion of therapeutic innovations. Eaton concludes that a most important role of the sociological framework is in showing how we, as a group, come to define a given emotion or behaviour as important. Although mental disorder is defined at the level of the individual, 'insanity' is defined at the level of society. He urges an end to polemics about genes *v.* environment, since the social environment provides a powerful tool for understanding the effects of genes on behaviour. This integrative view is a valuable one.

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Mental Health in India 1950–2000: Essays in Honour of Professor N. N. Wig

Edited by R. Srinivasa Murthy. Bangalore: People's Action for Mental Health. 2000.

299 pp. £5.00 (pb). No ISBN.

Copies available from: Apt C-301,

Casa Angal 18, NS Palya, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore 560076, India

This is almost a very good book. If the contents had a little more accurately reflected the title, we would have had a fitting tribute to one of the leaders of Indian psychiatry in the second half of the 20th century. I know of Professor Wig, but it was only on careful reading of the 25 chapters that I was reminded (or learned) of his very substantial achievements: his contribution to outcome studies in schizophrenia; his work on acute and transient psychosis; his coining of the term 'Dhat syndrome'; his promotion of the delivery of psychiatric services through primary health care; his leadership in developing the National Mental Health Programme in India; and so on. Glimpses of the man appear in chapters such as those written by Ahmad Molit and David Goldberg but the one-page biographical sketch does not do him justice. A more detailed assessment of his contribution to Indian and international psychiatry would have been welcome.

But there are some nuggets of historical information buried deep in the text: the first lunatic asylum was opened in Madras (now Chennai) in 1794, but it was only in 1905 that psychiatry was recognised as a speciality in India. At the time of independence in 1947, although there were several hundred million Indians, there were only 17 mental hospitals with 8425 beds. Then, as now, as this book emphasises again and again, almost all care of the mentally ill in India was provided by the extended family. However, as Murthy and Ghosh point out, how long this will last remains to be seen, with increasing urbanisation, increasing numbers of nuclear and single-parent families, and the increasing influence of the mass media in shaping the aspirations of young people and family life.

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The Maudsley Neuropsychiatry Modules: A Teaching Package for Self-Paced Learning or Small Group Seminars

Author/Producer: Steve Church; Director:

David Goldberg; Editors: Anthony David

& Alwyn Lishman. London: Maudsley. Pack

contains: Workbook, 163 pp. Package price

£250. ISBN 0 9500289 8 3; Answerbook (on

floppy disk); 2 video-tapes (2000); reference

textbook: Lishman (1997)

What a splendid idea: neuropsychiatry is a clinical subject, so the notion of providing video-taped interviews with experts in the field, followed by clinical interviews with real patients accompanied by a workbook must be one of the best ways of learning the subject. In addition, the package contains, as a reference textbook, a copy of Lishman's *Organic Psychiatry* (1997).

The videos and workbook are divided into seven modules, dealing with the main areas of neuropsychiatry. Each module is subdivided into various sections, with revision exercises and feedback after each exercise. Throughout the workbook further reading is recommended from *Organic Psychiatry*. (An outline of the modules is available at www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/main/publineu.htm.)

The videos are interesting and well-produced and the reference to Lishman's text means that anyone who has conscientiously studied the course will have learnt a great deal about neuropsychiatry and will have enjoyed the trip.

This teaching package will form an excellent preparation for the MRCPsych examination. More broadly, it presents examples of how to take a neuropsychiatric history, carry out a cognitive state examination and observe movement disorders or other neuropsychiatric symptoms – all of which will be invaluable to any clinician.

The package is intended for use not by individuals, but by local psychiatric training groups in which a clinical tutor might take responsibility for the pack and for providing supplementary help to trainees. The videos contain recordings of real patients and therefore a number of restrictions apply and the product is not available to individuals outside an academic setting.

As far as neuropsychiatry is concerned, some parts of this package are better than others. The neuroimaging section is particularly successful, and the opportunity of seeing Professor Lishman carrying out a

cognitive status examination should not be missed. There are a few omissions. Somatoform disorders additional to pseudo-seizures as well as sleep disorders could have been mentioned and it would have been interesting to have a little more time spent on movement disorders, since they lend themselves so well to video presentations. However, I enjoyed the package, as I am sure trainees and tutors will. It should be used as a model for many other areas of medical teaching.

Lishman, W. A. (1997) *Organic Psychiatry* (3rd edn). Oxford: Blackwell Science.

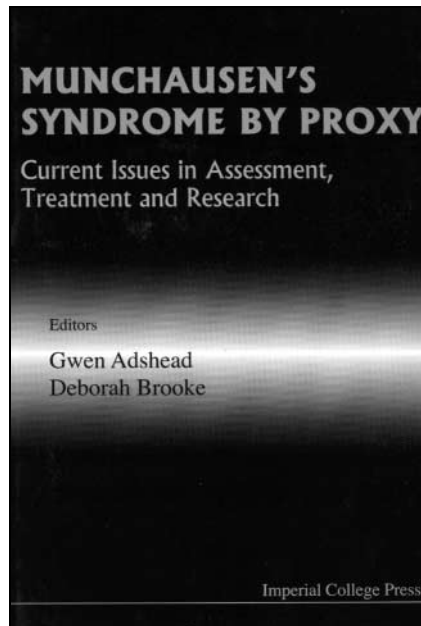
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Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy. Current Issues in Assessment, Treatment and Research

Edited by Gwen Adshead & Deborah Brooke. London: Imperial College Press. 2001. 238 pp. £29.00 (hb). ISBN 1 86094 134 6

The stated aim of this book is 'to provide a multi-disciplinary and international perspective on current understanding of Munchausen's syndrome by proxy' (MBPS). It fulfils this task efficiently. Beginning with a brief '20-year overview' of the subject, it offers an interesting international and cross-cultural view. The contributors are well-known in the field: Jureidini and Donald, Southall, Samuels, Jones and Newbold, Eminson, Bluglass and Bools. The latter writes well of new directions for research and service development for the future. The perspectives covered include MBPS in the medical system and primary care; legal, social work and *guardian ad litem* viewpoints; the detection and assessment of abusing families; and the treatment of perpetrators and victims.

Perhaps the most original chapter is by one of the editors, Gwen Adshead, on ethical and public policy issues in the management of MBPS. She explores the clinical dilemmas and consequent anxieties engendered by different clinical relationships and duties, which often clash in cases of MBPS. She also provides an overview of the power differentials and ethical



responsibilities within the doctor-patient relationship and of the sometimes conflicting responsibilities of the doctor to third parties, family and society. The issue of MBPS and child abuse is examined as a paradigmatic locus of especial tension and frank conflict for professionals, for example in the question of whether a doctor has 'a professional right to deceive in order to do good' – as in the case of covert video surveillance. These discussions deserve greater exploration.

There has been something of a glut of volumes on this subject in the past few years – in contrast to a relative paucity of research (e.g. Schreier & Libow, 1993; Parnell & Day, 1997; Eminson & Postlethwaite, 2000, for review see Cordess, 2001). Adshead & Brooke may be counted unfortunate to follow so closely in the footsteps of the last of these: this subject advances slowly and, since it has only a poor empirical base, there was little new to be said.

Although this book presents solid findings – such as they are – and viewpoints in its 17 chapters, each chapter is too brief to allow contributors to get into their authorial stride. The text, therefore, reads awkwardly, as something between lecture notes and narrative. Typographical errors, such as the erroneous rendering (twice) on the first page of the introduction of 'factitious' as 'fictitious' (a common but unfortunate mistake in a book on the subject), left me feeling that the editors had not been well served by the standard of publishing production.

Cordess, C. (2001) *Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy Abuse: A Practical Approach* (book review). *British Journal of Psychiatry*, **178**, 481–482.

Eminson, M. & Postlethwaite, R. J. (2000) *Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy Abuse: A Practical Approach*. Oxford: Butterworth Heinemann.

Parnell, T. F. & Day, D. D. (eds) (1997) *Munchausen by Proxy Syndrome. Misunderstood Child Abuse*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Schreier, H. A. & Libow, J. A. (1993) *Hurting for Love. Munchausen by Proxy Syndrome*. New York: Guilford Press.

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Attention, Genes and ADHD

Edited by Florence Levy & David Hay. Hove: Brunner-Routledge. 2001. 272 pp. £30.00 (hb). ISBN 1 84169 193 3

Recent research on the neuroscience and genetics of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) has transformed the intellectual landscape of its discourse, if not of modern child neuropsychiatry. This slender volume, with many high-quality reviews, represents one of its landmarks. It provides a state-of-the-art summary of major findings in both behavioural (quantitative) and molecular genetics of this fascinating disorder. Yet the editors go beyond the remit of such an undertaking: it proposes many fresh questions, as well as providing a critique of the limitations and methodological issues of works hitherto undertaken. This is therefore a book that would interest and intrigue non-specialists and experts alike.

The bulk of the book is on quantitative genetics, that is, genetic epidemiology based on twin and adoption studies. There are also chapters on molecular genetics, which deal with DNA, allelic frequency and candidate genes. These are two distinct intellectual disciplines that are sharply demarcated by differing methodologies and techniques. The editors have included an introductory chapter on quantitative genetics (Chapter 2) to equip non-specialist readers with basic principles of the subject and explanations on path diagrams. Thus, non-specialists need not be deterred. Chapter 3 examines the diagnostic validity of ADHD and its subtypes in relation to latent genetic substrates from a quantitative