Contents

Acknowledgment VI
Preface VIII
Part I: Issues in Teaching Psychosomatic Medicine:
the Consultation-Liaison Process
Introduction (Part I) 3
Krakowski, A.J. (Plattsburgh, N.Y.): Liaison Psychiatry in North America in
the 1970s 4
Greenhill, M.H. (Bronx, N.Y.): Teaching and Training of the Psychosomatic
Approach 15
Kimball, C.P. (Chicago, Ill.): Teaching Medical Students Psychosomatic
Medicine: of Substances and Approaches 23
Iwasaki, T. (Kanagawaken): Teaching Liaison Psychiatry and Clinical Practice
of Psychosomatic Medicine in the General Hospital 32
Schöffel, W (Marburg/Lahn): Training in Anger: How Not to Communicate
with One's Medical Seniors 39
Bastiaans, J. (Oegesthegeest): Models of Teaching Psychobiological Medicine
to Medical Students 48
Freyberger, H. (Hannover): Students Working as Auxiliary Therapists with
Groups of Psychosomatic and Organically Ill Patients 62
Hertz, D.G. (Jerusalem): Culture-, Age-, and Sex-Related Attitudes. Conflict
Areas in Teaching and Practice of Psychological Medicine 71
Greenhill, M.H. (Bronx, N.Y.): Models of Liaison Programs that Address
Age and Cultural Differences in Reaction to Illness 77
Kimball, C.P. (Chicago, Ill.): The Issue of Confidentiality in the Consultation-Liaison
Process 82
Silverman, A.J. (Ann Arbor, Mich.): Discussion (Part I) 90

VI Contents
Part II. Reactions to Illness: Selected Aspects
Introduction (Part II) 95
Gaddini, R. (Rome): The Relationship of Reactions to Illness to Developmental
Stages 96
Musaph, H. (Utrecht): On the Relationship of Aggression to Illness 107
Ramsay, R.A. (Montreal, P.Q.): The Understanding and Teaching of Reaction
to Pain 114
Levy, N.B. (Brooklyn, N.Y.): The Teaching of Liaison Psychiatry in the
Hemodialysis Center 141
Aitken, C (Edinburgh): Prospects and Services for Medical Rehabilitation 145
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For the A's
of our lives
Anne and Ada

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Chase P. Kimball
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Preface

This volume addresses two issues: one, the methods of liaison consultation; and two, the phenomenon of psychosomatic medicine. The first addresses the process of liaison activity in medical and surgical environments. These sites may be viewed as the laboratories in which we teach, conduct research and care for patients. It is in these settings that we stumble on our insights, refine our hypotheses, and identify our methods of observation - interviewing and other means of data gathering. It is also in these facilities that we extrapolate from our research conclusions to bring care and help to the patient. In this section we also consider the methods by which we communicate our observations and methods of research and care to our students and our colleagues.

The second section focuses on selected substantive issues in psychosomatic medicine, specifically the phenomenon of illness, the patient's response to illness, the environments in which illness is treated and those who treat illness. The spectrum of illness discussed in this section includes the illness-onset situation, the acute, convalescent and rehabilitative phases of illness. In addressing these, we gather data regarding the individual's genetic and developmental history, his previous experiences with illness, personality and behavioral patterns and the milieus in which he lives, works and plays. We also gather information regarding the preillness period because factors relating to this may still be operating after the onset and during the subsequent stages of illness. Particular attention is addressed to chronic problems, such as pain and hemodialysis and to the increasing problems encountered by an increasing geriatric population.

Most of the papers included herein were originally prepared in briefer form for presentation at the Consultation-Liaison Symposium at the Fourth Congress of the International College of Psychosomatic Medicine held in Kyoto, Japan,
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The Editors