**Books Received**

**Peter Mann**

**The Psychopathology of Functional Somatic Syndromes: Neurobiology and Illness Behavior in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Fibromyalgia, Gulf War Illness, Irritable Bowel and Premenstrual Dysphoria**

Haworth Press, Binghamton 2004
284 pp.; USD 34.95 (soft), 79.95 (hard)

This is a well-written review of syndromes which lack organic disease explanations, with particular reference to the literature of the past 20 years. It analyses the clinical manifestations of functional syndromes, their psychiatric comorbidity, their psychobiology and the findings related to abnormal personality and illness behavior.

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**David P. Moore, James W. Jefferson**

**Handbook of Medical Psychiatry;** 2nd ed.

Elsevier, Philadelphia 2004
560 pp.; USD 59.95
ISBN 0–323–02911–6

Medical-psychiatric interactions frequently occur in medical practice, both in the form of psychiatric complications of medical disease and medical comorbidity in psychiatric disorders. This second edition of the book provides a clear survey of such occurrences, with remarkable clinical descriptions and suggestions for treatment. The brief chapters concerned with medical-psychiatric interactions contain just what the clinician needs to know.

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**Christopher Peterson, Martin E.P. Seligman**

**Character Strengths and Virtues: A Handbook and Classification**

Oxford University Press, New York 2004
814 pp.; GBP 45.00
ISBN 0–19–516701–5

The book attempts a synthesis of the strengths of character, which are conceptualised under the rubrics of wisdom and knowledge, courage, humanity, justice, temperance and transcendence. The conceptual value of the synthesis is considerable, even though the model still lacks empirical validation.

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**Robert L. Leahy (ed.)**

**Roadblocks in Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy**

Guilford Press, New York 2004
384 pp.; GBP 35.00

The book provides a very helpful survey of the problems of therapeutic impasse and resistance. The first part is concerned with case conceptualisation, the second with metacognition and emotion, the third with specific disorders. The last two sections deal with couples and families and psychotherapy processes. The volume is rich in clinical information for cognitive-behavioural therapists.

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**Derek Bolton, Jonathan Hill**

**Mind, Meaning and Mental Disorder: The Nature of Causal Explanation in Psychology and Psychiatry;** 2nd ed.

Series: International Perspectives in Philosophy and Psychiatry
Oxford University Press, New York 2003
430 pp.; GBP 29.95

The book addresses an aspect of importance to both clinicians/researchers and patients: the nature of casual explanation in psychology and psychiatry. It is an interdisciplinary work in philosophy and psychiatry, which is of considerable conceptual interest.

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**Larry S. Goldman, Thomas N. Wise, David S. Brody (eds.)**

**Psychiatry for Primary Care Physicians;** 2nd ed.

American Medical Association Press, Washington 2004
455 pp.; USD 60.00
ISBN 1–57947–410–1

This is the second edition of a very successful book, which is a must for primary care physicians as well as other non-psychiatric specialists. The volume outlines the psychosomatic consideration of health and illness (with an outstanding chapter by Steven Cole and Mack Lipkin on assessment), the most common DSM conditions, different patient situations, women’s mental health, geropsychiatry and somatic and psychotherapeutic treatments. The book has a clinical and practical connotation: it provides a welcome response to the increasing educational needs in the psychosocial dimensions of current medical practice.

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Accessible online at: www.karger.com/pps
C. Robert Cloninger

Feeling Good: The Science of Well-Being
Oxford University Press, New York 2004
400 pp.; GBP 21.99
ISBN 0–19–505137–8

The book attempts a synthesis of philosophy, psychology, and neuroscience in building a science of well-being. The author examines the philosophy of well-being, the measurement of human thought, the psychology of transcendentalism and contemplation, the psychophysiology of awareness and the structure of well-being.

M. Schou

Lithium Treatment of Mood Disorders: A Practical Guide; 6th revised ed.
Karger, Basel 2004
XVI + 76 pp.; EUR 20.50/USD 26.50

This is the 6th edition of a widely acclaimed practical guide to the patient and his/her family. It provides basic and clear information by one of the leaders in the field, which deserves the widest dissemination.

David Healy

Let Them Eat Prozac
Lorimer, Toronto 2003
446 pp.; CAD 29.95
ISBN 1–55028–783–4

This book is for the lay public by a very controversial author well-known to the readers of this journal. It addresses the relationship between the use of antidepressant drugs and suicide risk. John Le Carré wrote that ‘this very important book will demonstrate beyond your worst dreams that the commercial needs of Big Pharma are the natural-born enemy of independent scientific research’. Is this actually documented in this book? It is worth reading.

Albert Diefenbacher (ed.)

Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry in Germany, Austria and Switzerland
Karger, Basel 2004
X + 208 pp.; CHF 160.–
ISBN 3–8055–7749–4

This volume contains information on the German experience in the practice of consultation-liaison psychiatry and psychosomatic medicine. There are several important lessons to be learned from that experience, which could be of tremendous interest to an international readership.

M. Maj, H.S. Akiskal, J.J. Lopez-Ibor, A. Okash (eds.)

Phobias
Wiley, Chichester 2004
353 pp.; GBP 70.00
ISBN 0–470–85833–8

This is the seventh volume of a very successful World Psychiatric Association series on evidence and experience in psychiatry. The book’s structure reflects that of the other volumes of the series: comprehensive reviews of the field (in this case on diagnosis and classification, epidemiology, pharmacotherapy, psychotherapy of phobias, phobic disturbances in children and adolescents and social and economic implications), accompanied by commentaries that highlight the most controversial issues. The volume, as the other of the series, provides very valuable information and is highly recommended.

M.R. Clark, G.J. Treisman (eds.)

Pain and Depression: An Interdisciplinary Patient-Centered Approach
Karger, Basel 2004
X + 176 pp.; EUR 114.50/USD 145.50

This welcome, if not overdue, volume deals with a key issue in medical practice: the link between chronic pain and depression. The picture that emerges from the volume is more complex than it is generally assumed. The book provides a large body of clinical information that otherwise would be scattered in different disciplines and books. The volume also provides update on the neurobiology of pain and opiate dependence in chronic pain. This excellent book is recommended to both specialists and primary care physicians.

Charles Medawar, Anita Hardon

Medicines out of Control? Antidepressants and the Conspiracy of Goodwill
Aksant, Amsterdam 2004
253 pp.; GBP 19.25
ISBN 90–5260–1348

This book is concerned with the relationship between the drug industry and medical information. It may be seen as a case history of a problem (dependence) on antidepressant drugs that was already evident in the mid nineties but only now has become to be properly addressed. The massive denial that surrounded the phenomena provides a very good exemplification of the risks of current science. The book is recommended to anyone who is concerned with the independence of clinical science.
David A. Clark

Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for OCD
Guilford Press, New York 2004
336 pp.; GBP 26.95

The book deals with the phenomenology of obsessions and compulsions and cognitive behavioural research and treatment. It provides a clear account of this approach in obsessive compulsive disorder.

Steven Taylor, Gordon JG Asmundson

Treating Health Anxiety: A Cognitive Behavioural Approach
Guilford Press, New York 2004
290 pp.; USD 26.95

The focus of this book is on the various forms of abnormal illness behavior which may be subsumed under the broad rubric of health anxiety. It describes the cognitive behavioural approach to these disorders. The clinical focus, however, is rather narrow.

Peter W. Halligan, Christopher Bass, David A. Oakley

Malingering and Illness Deception
Oxford University Press, New York 2003
380 pp.; GBP 35.00
ISBN 0–19–851554–5

This is an interesting book which is concerned with illness deception. The book provides medical, forensic neuropsychological, legal and social perspectives. It provides helpful hints for the detection of deception. The survey of the literature is rather selective and there is insufficient emphasis on studies dealing with factitious disease.

Piero Porcelli

Psychosomatic Medicine and the Rorschach Test
Prismatica, Madrid 2004
372 pp.
ISBN 84–88909–12–8

This is a comprehensive review on the use of the Rorschach test in psychosomatic medicine. After discussing the main issues in psychosomatic assessment today, the author analyses the role that the Rorschach test has played, with particular reference to alexithymia, chronic pain and cancer. The second part of the book is concerned with 6 clinical cases. The volume is a valuable addition to the literature and is particularly useful to psychologists who use the Rorschach test in their practice.

R.S. Bar (ed.)

Early Diagnosis and Treatment of Endocrine Disorders
Humana Press, Totowa 2003
358 pp.; USD 125.00
ISBN 1–59259–378–N

This original and highly commendable book focuses on the early symptoms and signs of endocrine disorders, on their diagnostic assessment and the therapeutic approach. Some of the disorders which have been surveyed (e.g. type 2 diabetes, polycystic ovary syndrome, obesity) are of particular importance in the long-term drug treatment of psychiatric disorders. The book thus offers very helpful information for their prevention, early diagnosis and timely treatment.