

Medical and Psychiatric Comorbidity Over the Course of Life

edited by William W. Eaton, Ph.D. American Psychiatric Press, Washington, D.C., 2006, 320 pages, \$65.00.

This well-edited collection of studies and reviews examines the causal and clinical overlapping of psychiatric and general medical disorders. The book is divided into 5 large sections of expert reviews that address epidemiology, risk factor analysis, mood disorders, the impact of emotions and experience on health, and schizophrenia. The material is instructive rather than directive and clinically relevant by offering general rather than practical insights into patient care.

The editor has emphasized the overlapping of medical and psychiatric disorders from epidemiologic, causal, clinically relevant, and purely theoretical points of view. The organization allows concepts and insights to build sequentially for the reader, especially in the first 3 sections. Clinicians in psychosomatics will find particularly interesting the discussions of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, and postconflict syndromes (including Gulf War Syndrome).

Several chapters offer social and developmental insights into topics such as "Physical and Psychiatric Illness Across Adolescence," "Fundamental Social Causes," and "The Story of Gulf War Syndrome." The chapters "Mood Disorders and the Heart," "Consequences of Psychopathology in the Baltimore ECA," and "Linking Fetal Experience to Adult Disease" address practical questions—Which of our patients are at elevated risk?—and theoretical issues—How are these disorders linked? There is much speculation, mostly rich and stimulating, regarding the common sources of medical and mental illness.

Is this book of interest to general psychiatrists? The material selected is, for the most part, thoughtful and concise. Some is narrower and more speculative than one would expect in a book of this scope ("COX-2 Inhibition in Schizophrenia"), and some is of such a general, basic nature as to be more appropriate in a medical school text than a book for active clinicians and researchers ("Allostasis and Allostatic Load Over the Life Course"). But the subject reviews and psychosocial insights easily redeem what is a valuable update and guide to current controversies and future research.

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Substance Abuse: A Comprehensive Textbook, 4th ed.

edited by Joyce H. Lowinson, M.D.; Pedro Ruiz, M.D.; Robert B. Millman, M.D.; and John G. Langrod, Ph.D. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia, Pa., 2005, 1421 pages, \$175.00.

This is the textbook that must be on your shelf if you are practicing in the field of addiction psychiatry. Of course, anyone engaged in training in the specialty or who wants a reasonable compendium of recent thinking about this area of psychiatry would also benefit from the book. In fact, *Substance Abuse: A Comprehensive Textbook* is the basis of a reading seminar led by a senior faculty member that offers the formal didactics for the Fellows in the Addiction Psychiatry Training Program at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine (which is a PGY-5-level clinical training year that prepares the partici-

pants to take the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology examination in this specialty).

That being said, the book provides an intensive treatment of a breadth of topics related to the field of addiction psychiatry. The chapters are highly variable in quality and comprehensiveness. Each topic is treated almost in isolation from the others, and there is considerable redundancy. While this might be considered a form of emphasis of what is important in the subject matter, it probably represents a lack of integration—*Substance Abuse: A Comprehensive Textbook* does not show the strong hand of an editor. Nevertheless, some of the chapters, written by leaders in the field, are of extremely high quality.

To give the reader an indication of the magnitude of this volume, it is organized into 15 sections with 88 chapters in almost 1500 pages. Included are all of the typical issues related to addiction psychiatry. One important addition that would not have been part of a book of this type in the past is the section entitled "Related Compulsive and Addictive Behaviors." This addition reflects the broadened perspective of addiction psychiatry, wherein both use of drugs with dependence liability and out-of-control and self-destructive behaviors are now recognized to equally overwhelm the behavioral repertoire of the organism in very similar ways. Another unusual emphasis for a volume of this ilk is that it includes a section on training and education, reflecting the perspectives of this field that knowledge and skills must be combined with the appropriate attitude toward patients in order for clinical work to be effective and that attitudes are rarely, if ever, taught so openly elsewhere in medicine.

In summary, this is an important book that contains more than most people would want to know but covers, at least in a cursory fashion, almost anything that might be of interest to anyone in the field.

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Acute and Transient Psychoses

by Andreas Marneros, M.D., Dr.h.c.; and Frank Pillmann, M.D. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom, 2004, 254 pages, \$120.

In an ever-changing climate of ever-decreasing periods of clinical observation, in both inpatient and outpatient settings, acute and transient psychoses continue to puzzle and challenge clinicians all over the world. The challenge is much bigger in the United States, mainly for 2 reasons. First, there is an exclusive reliance on the DSM-IV—*brief reactive psychosis* is the DSM-IV term closest to *acute and transient psychoses*, and the diagnosis can be made only following remission, since after 1 month the condition is called *schizophreniform disorder*. Second, a fast-growing managed care system limits the observation period in the hospital settings where these clinical states are primarily treated.

This book brings a wealth of information from 2 eminent German psychiatrists, Andreas Marneros, M.D., Dr.h.c., and Frank Pillmann, M.D., of Martin-Luther-University, Halle-Wittenberg, Germany. Both authors, most notably Professor Marneros, have been active researchers in this area for decades. The book consists of 3 chapters and begins with history and concepts of acute and transient psychoses. From Kraepelin through 3 "Karls" (Wernicke, Kleist, and Leonhard) down to

DSM-IV and ICD-10, this chapter is a well-narrated history and a clear elucidation of various diagnostic concepts. As regards acute and transient psychoses, this chapter also compares and contrasts the 2 contemporary classification systems—DSM-IV and ICD-10. In the second chapter, the authors review various studies that have looked at acute and transient psychoses. The most voluminous and systematic investigation of the topic, the Halle Study on Brief and Acute Psychoses (HASBAP) led by Drs. Marneros and Pillmann, is reviewed at length. The study combines 3 methodological approaches—(1) a prospective follow-up of the inpatient sample; (2) a case-control design, matching for age and gender; and (3) a longitudinal approach with examination of patients 2 and 5 years after the index episode. A wide variety of instruments were used for assessment, including ICD-10 and DSM-IV checklists. While the index group consisted of patients with acute and transient psychotic disorder and brief psychoses, the control groups consisted of patients with positive schizophrenia, bipolar schizoaffective disorder, and those without a psychiatric disorder. The concluding chapter of the book addresses various nosologic issues in the area of acute and transient psychoses. In particular, the authors have critically examined the polymorphic aspect of acute and brief psychoses from a nosologic standpoint.

This book is lucidly written and well-referenced. The authors do a great justice to integrating European schools of psychiatry and global research data—via World Health

Organization-sponsored research initiatives—with North American literature. They persuasively argue that research data be collected “independent of current diagnostic trends so that the value of this data will remain intact while the diagnostic fashion changes” (p. 208). The book highlights epidemiologic, diagnostic, and some therapeutic aspects of acute and transient psychoses: There is a scant commentary on the etiologic, especially biological, aspects of acute and transient psychoses. Toward this end, the authors point out the limitations of current diagnostic approaches. They stress that the *acute and transient psychotic disorder* of ICD-10 and the *brief psychotic disorder* of DSM-IV are not based on a broad ground of research.

The book is an authoritative source of information for researchers and clinicians who are seriously interested in learning about these ephemeral clinical states that challenge researchers and clinicians alike. And, especially on this side of the Atlantic, it is a most welcome central source of information about the seminal research contributions from other continents. Hopefully, the book will provide some essential research data as the DSM-V goes through its gestational period. The authors have skillfully woven a beautiful tapestry with the research threads of various parts of the world.

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