
This well set out book encompasses most forms of paralysis, and should appeal to nurses, medical social workers, physiotherapists, and occupational therapists working in general hospitals and rehabilitation centres, and those in training in specialised centres for the paralysed. The authors are the recently retired distinguished Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery in Liverpool, and a senior nurse, and they have mentioned briefly the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of most forms of paralysis, but their aim has been to concentrate on treatment. The diagrams and figures are clear and helpful although several of the photographs show extreme and grotesque paralysis. Indeed there could have been more stress on partial paralysing disorders and on recovering lesions, whether due to trauma or disease; otherwise the reader may not appreciate that "paralysis" may be partial (paresis), and quite often may recover either fully or partially. The best sections are on peripheral nerve and on spinal cord lesions. A larger section on spina bifida would have been valuable. Provision of a list of references for further reading, and correction of a number of typographical errors may be left to a subsequent edition of what should prove to be an important addition to texts for those working in the "allied health professions". I would conclude by saying that all doctors treating paralysed patients would find some new and attractively presented information in this volume.


"Childhood mental health is a major public health and social concern for all countries. . . . Between 5 and 15% of all children aged 3–15 are affected by persistent and socially handicapping mental disorders." This was the starting point for a WHO multidisciplinary Expert Committee which, in a compact report, has summarised existing knowledge about the causation, manifestations, and treatment of childhood emotional disorders. The presentation is clear and concise but rather misleadingly dogmatic, especially when the references quoted are exclusively those of WHO—surely a peculiarly self-defeating policy! The concluding section makes a brave attempt to outline a rational programme of preventive child psychiatry, splendid in conception but rather woolly in detail. Nevertheless, this is an important statement on health policy which puts child psychiatric considerations firmly on the world health map, besides indicating constructive measures which should be introduced by WHO itself.


This book is the joint effort of over 20 contributors from Stanford University. It sets out to cover a wide range of topics in psychopharmacology, from the known facts of neuroreceptors and the influence of drugs on these mechanisms to the use of psychotropic drugs in clinical practice. In the former there are glaring omissions, there is only a trivial explanation of the mode of action of the antidepressant drugs, and only passing reference to neuronal re-uptake mechanisms for neurotransmitters. However, the treatment section is comprehensive, and the chapter on schizophrenia excellent. Whenever drugs are used to achieve central changes, either therapeutic or psychedelic, this book is likely to discuss them. For the psychiatrist with time to read it is to be recommended, but for the student the verbosity might be irritating, and an abridged version would be welcomed.

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