

Finally, Dr. Whybrow reminds us that, "In a collective denial of aging — at the other end of the life cycle — we employ all available technologies to simulate youth, misunderstanding that the secret to immortality lies not in the individual but in the society we leave behind" (p. 260).

This is a great analysis of the Fast New American World and what the author astutely calls American mania. Dr. Whybrow puts together seemingly unrelated work and thinking of Tocqueville, Adam Smith, Darwin, Freud and certainly also his own. He explains some of the societal ills in the frame of neurobiology. He points out the mismatch between our inherited biology and the demands of our time-sensitive commercial culture, and the fact that the "America's technology-driven Fast New World is already testing the limits of human physiology" (p. 78). The book is great bedtime reading for everybody. It provides a lot of food for thought. Many clinicians could wholeheartedly recommend this book to their busy patients — provided that they can convince them to find time to read it. I hope they convince them. Many readers may feel that they know all the particular ideas and facts mentioned in this book. Maybe they do. Separately. But Dr. Whybrow puts them together in a unique analysis and provides a thoughtful perspective of our fast, frenzied and paradoxical times. This book is definitely highly recommended, enjoyable reading.

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Acute and Transient Psychoses. By Andreas Marneros and Frank Pillmann; Cambridge University Press, New York, New York; 2004 ISBN: 0-521-83518-6; \$110.00 (hardcover), 252 pp.

The authors compare the DSM-IV diagnosis of "Brief Psychotic Disorder" and the ICD-10 "Acute and Transient Psychotic Disorders" with each other and against diagnoses of schizophrenia and the bipolar type of schizoaffective disorder, although other disorders such as schizophreniform disorder and various terms that have been used historically are also discussed from time to time. They make the case that these brief and intermittent psychoses are, to some extent, the "left-over material" after many of our better defined psychotic disorders have been identified and sharply defined.

The book's thirteen chapters are divided into three major segments: historical and conceptual issues; research findings; and specific issues of nosology. The main themes include whether or not either or both of the brief or acute diagnostic categories as currently defined are truly different from other psychotic illness in definite, reproducible ways, and if so, what these diagnoses really tell us about symptom patterns and prognosis. The fundamental basis for the majority of the book is a combined prospective and retrospective study designed and administered by the authors at the Halle University Hospital, in

what was formerly known as East Germany. It is fortunate that the authors have this data set from which to write, since the other studies relating to these diagnostic entities are few in number, and most suffer from the difficulty of adequately defining the disease entity studied. Given their study population, they are able to comment on such matters as longitudinal course, suicidal behaviors, clinical features, and demographics specific to these categories. Conclusions, which are clear and concise, at which the authors were able to arrive through analysis of the available data are set aside from the main body of the writing by being boxed in and set in different type, so they are easy for the reader to identify throughout the book.

The final few chapters explore the problems and potential solutions in defining and conceptualizing brief and acute/transient psychoses, discussing how the American Psychiatric Association and the World Health Organization have utilized time and phenomenological approaches to do so. The authors conclude, based on their results, that there is no substantial difference between the DSM-IV and the ICD-10 brief psychotic entities. They define both what is and is not supported by their work and that of other researchers in this field. The book ends with an extensive references section, followed by a subject index.

This is a text that will particularly interest the psychiatrist who sees unusual presentations of psychosis. While some of the time that includes all of us, I would think that community-based and tertiary referral (especially university-based) psychiatrists would be two excellent audiences, as well as those who want and need a manageable and up-to-date (to 2004) overview of the world literature on brief psychotic states. Since it covers its subject matter so completely, students may also find it useful, especially the chapters in the history and concepts section — although the price may deter students who do not have access to it in a library setting. The book is quite well written and, if further explanation is required, contains a number of charts and tables to summarize or illustrate the information discussed in the text. While some might argue with how definitively the authors state their conclusions, I found their approach both refreshing and helpful.

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The Neurobiology of Aggression and Rage. By Allan Siegel; CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida; 2004; ISBN 0-415-30834-8; \$129.95 (hardbound), 312 pp.

Dr. Siegel has devoted nearly forty years to the study of the physiology, chemistry and anatomy of aggression and rage. In this book, he covers multiple aspects of aggression in eleven chapters, beginning with a summary of just what aggression is and the history of neurological enquiry in this field. Within these introductory chapters, the discussion of Dr. Kenneth

Moyer's 1968 taxonomy of operational categories of aggressive behavior, as well as those of others who have long studied these behaviors, will be useful as a jumping off point for many readers. Much of the cited research has been done in animals, especially cats and rats, but the relationship to human aggression is explored to the extent possible, and where available, research in humans is discussed. Most of the book is attributed to Dr. Siegel alone, but two chapters, one on the endocrine system and the other on the immune system, were co-authored with Dr. Melissa K. Demetrikopoulos (at least the co-author is listed as "M. Demetrikopoulos" and she has collaborated previously in reviews and original research with Dr. Siegel).

Dr. Siegel devotes an entire chapter to each of the following areas of aggression and rage research: neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, the limbic components (these are actually reviewed in two chapters), neurochemistry, and genetics in addition to the two co-authored chapters mentioned previously. The discussion of neurochemistry devotes individual attention to each of the neurotransmitters from acetylcholine to substance P, and also explores the effects of substances of abuse on aggressive behavior. The chapter on hormonal state and aggression includes segments on each of the sex hormones, as well as products of the adrenal glands.

The text is imminently readable and reasonably easy to comprehend. In addition, there are numerous drawings, graphs, and tables scattered throughout the text that are extremely helpful in understanding the research results and anatomical pathways. The black and white photographs of aggressive behaviors in animals are not as clear or helpful. The final chapter concerns possible areas for future research as well as a discussion of how people might use the research findings to control aggressive impulses. There are references cited at the conclusion of each chapter and a thorough subject index.

The stated goal of the book is to provide an up-to-date discussion of all biological processes involved in the production and control of rage and aggression. Dr. Siegel has certainly done so. Any student of research into aggression will find this book of interest, particularly neurobiology graduate students and neuropsychologists. This book may provide more information than the clinician with a casual interest in anger and aggression will feel necessary, but the table of contents is so complete that the reader may easily pick and choose topics of greatest interest.

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This book seeks to provide a ready reference for the recent physiological Magnetic Resonance (MR) techniques such as diffusion, perfusion and spectroscopy as they apply to clinical practice. This book targets medical professionals as well as those who are interested in MR research. After an introductory section reviewing technical aspects of these techniques, seven clinical areas are addressed: (1) cerebral vascular disease, (2) neoplasia, (3) infection, inflammation and demyelination, (4) seizure disorders, (5) psychiatric and neurodegenerative disorders, (6) trauma, and finally (7) pediatrics.

The choice of topics and the organization of the book is elegant. By their admission, they have avoided functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging, a domain of neuroimaging too important to be given a minimal role in a volume such as this. The coverage of the clinical topics is comprehensive. The book is expensive but at around 50¢ per page of text, its sheer volume does make it a good deal. The size of the book also makes it more a reference volume than a handbook. The technical section provides the fundamentals, quantification issues and common artifacts. The artifact chapters are especially valuable, as a reference such as this will allow clinicians and researchers to avoid common pitfalls. The novice reader would have benefited from an account in this volume addressing the basic physics of MR imaging.

The book maintains a smooth style despite multiple authors (80 in all) and a plethora of technical details that are typical of books such as this. Case studies (36 in all) are a very strong feature, and serve as useful guideposts for the wealth of information provided in the chapters. Tables and graphics including the realistic clinical MR images/data images provide a good reference point for clinicians and researchers. Each chapter begins with a summary of key points, which is very useful for the reader interested in getting the take home points quickly.

A relatively small amount of attention is given in this book to psychiatric diseases. This is understandable as there are no clinically relevant MR procedures currently. Hence, this is not a good primary reference for those interested strictly in psychiatric MR research. There are other books that offer broad coverage of the field as relating to psychiatric illness. However, this book is clearly worth recommending strongly to neuroimaging professionals generally. The book is very timely and its emphasis on the fundamentals will help it stand the test of time better than many similar volumes.

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Clinical MR Neuroimaging. Diffusion, Perfusion and Spectroscopy. Edited by Jonathan Gillard, Adam Waldman and Peter Barker; Cambridge University Press, New York, New York; 2005; ISBN 0521 824 575; \$330 (hardcover); 827 pp.

Molecular Neurobiology for the Clinician. Edited by Dennis S. Charney; Review of Psychiatry, Volume 22, No. 3; American Psychiatric Publishing, Washington DC; 2003; ISBN 1-58562-113-7; \$34.95 (softcover), 250 pp.