

a unique, interactive process. The text was concomitantly read by a psychiatric resident new to the field and an experienced geriatric psychiatrist, and their subsequent dialogue identified convergent and divergent perspectives.

Part 1 of the book on basic science consists of 8 chapters. The first chapters provide a good summary of "normal" changes associated with aging. Advances in neurochemical pathology and molecular biology of dementia are then effectively described. As a read from beginning to end, these chapters on scientific developments seemed to the resident somewhat out of place, given that the disorders they refer to are addressed much later in the text. The student of mental health, therefore, may not be able to integrate and profit from this material as well as a more experienced clinician or scientist.

Part 2 covers topics related to clinical practice. The chapters about the assessment of adults are very practical and well organized. Their authors support a holistic approach, with individual, biological, psychological and social emphases. Caregivers and environmental systems are given appropriate consideration in the well-being of the elderly.

Part 3, entitled Psychiatric Services, is an interesting section on issues related to service delivery. Although the focus is primarily on systems in the United Kingdom, all readers will gain important perspectives and new insights into the issues of effective service delivery. Included is a thoughtful chapter on what makes an ideal home for people with dementia and factors to

consider when designing such a place. We were pleasantly surprised to come across this material in this text and felt that it spoke to the multi-dimensional approach of the editors.

Part 4, on specific disorders, devotes a chapter to each of the main diagnoses encountered in the field. In general, this section is very readable and provides a practical overview of each disorder. The subtitles and the use of tables to highlight key points make for an organized and accessible presentation of the material. The advantage of having different authors for each chapter is that it allows for experts to lend their clinical expertise and personal perspectives to the book. The disadvantage, of course, is that the chapters are at times variable in form and content. The chapters on Lewy body dementia, depressive disorders and delirium, to name but a few, are exceptional. They are comprehensive, with a good emphasis on clinical practice. A section titled "What to tell the patient and caregiver" is particularly practical from the point of view of the psychiatric resident with little experience.

Part 5 of the book, entitled Sexuality, Ethics, and Medico-legal Issues, includes topics on the social realm of the elderly, such as competence, driving and elder abuse, which are all well described. There is an appropriate mix of theoretical background and clinical practice in these chapters. Again, the social context here is the United Kingdom, which with its own laws and value system may not be directly applicable to readers in other parts of the world. The material is pertinent

and comprehensive nonetheless. The use of cases to illustrate various ethical issues is particularly effective.

Despite some chapter-to-chapter variability, overall, this book is a very readable overview of psychiatry in the elderly and includes relevant and up-to-date references. The authors provide useful clinical pearls based on their own experience and perspectives. The value of the book lies not in its role as a reference text; instead, it would likely best serve those learning about geriatric psychiatry or those experienced and seeking to review topics. From the perspective of the psychiatric resident reading such material for the first time, this book provides a good solid foundation from which one can then delve deeper. From the perspective of a practical geriatric psychiatrist, it provides an excellent tool to consolidate information and glean fresh and useful new perspectives.

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Psychiatry in Canada: Fifty Years. Rae-Grant Q, editor. Ottawa (ON): Canadian Psychiatric Association; 2001. 300 pp with index. ISBN 0-9699992-7-5 (paper). CDN\$16.

This multi-authored text, edited by Dr. Quentin Rae-Grant, an eminent Canadian academic child psychiatrist and administrator, covers 50 years of psychiatry in Canada from 1951 to 2001. The intent of the book is ambitious, but it never quite meets its objectives.

Each chapter is quite cursory, intending to be inclusive of events and people rather than delving into depth about particular events, people or achievements that might have been dealt with in greater depth and placed in historical and international perspective. As with any multi-authored text, the contributions seem uneven and not well integrated. Moreover, the book reads like a summary of a larger text, and one is disappointed forearmed with the knowledge that no larger, more in-depth volume exists.

A historical review serves the purpose of not only informing about the past, but also placing the present and the future in perspective. There is no attempt to critically evaluate the current status of psychiatry in Canada and its role in the world by examining the events of the past. This lack of synthesis means that this book will be mostly of interest to those who participated in the events described and who will have the luxury of nostalgia and recollection as they read. It will appeal particularly to members of the

Canadian Psychiatric Association and perhaps members of academic departments of psychiatry where the events of the past 50 years are better chronicled. As a historical text, it will have limited value. It is a chronicle of events, rather than a detailed discussion of the major and important events of the past 50 years, and lacks a greater and more intensive description of those particular leaders who shaped them.

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2003 Jock Cleghorn Prize

This prize, which will consist of a cheque for \$500, will be awarded by the CCNP for the best poster presentation by a research trainee (graduate student or clinical resident) at the Annual Meeting of the CCNP. Candidates wishing to have their poster presentation considered should send a covering letter and a copy of their submitted abstract to Dr. Sidney Kennedy at the address below. Those already applying for travel bursaries will automatically be considered for the Jock Cleghorn Prize. All others can contact Dr. Kennedy.

The poster presentations will be judged at the Annual Meeting by a committee consisting of at least 3 members of the Awards Committee (or substitute judges to be chosen by the Council from the CCNP membership if Awards Committee members are unable to attend the Annual Meeting). Topics on either basic or clinical aspects of neuropsychopharmacology will be considered. The poster should represent research in which the graduate student or resident is the primary investigator, and (s)he should be the first author of the submitted abstract. The winner of the award will be announced in the first newsletter after the Annual Meeting.

Please send a copy of the abstract and a covering letter to: Dr. Sidney Kennedy, Psychiatrist-in-Chief, University Health Network, 200 Elizabeth St., 8th Fl., Eaton Wing, Rm. 222, Toronto ON M5G 2C4; fax 416 340-4198; sidney.kennedy@uhn.on.ca

Deadline for submissions: April 2, 2004