

REVIEWS

PSYCHIATRY BY ANDERSON AND TRETOWAN—THIRD EDITION 1973

Concise Medical Textbook—Bailliere & Tindal, London

This can be regarded as a concise, comprehensive textbook of psychiatry. It covers a wider range of topics and subject matter than standard textbooks twice its size. Its arrangement of topics with bold types, capital letters and italics headings makes quick reference easy. The addition of a chapter on Psychiatric Examination is a definite improvement over past editions. Almost the whole field of psychiatry is covered although some of the topics were discussed only briefly. It is written in simple style. The approach is dogmatic and straight forward leaving out controversial issues and poorly established psychiatric theories and speculative interpretations. Apart from chapters on standard psychiatric disorders like Organic Disorders, Schizophrenia, Affective Disorders, Anxiety States, Hysteria, etc, there are also chapters on Psychiatry and General Medicine, Child Psychiatry and Social Aspects which are generally left out in some smaller psychiatric textbooks.

The section on drug treatment appears to be a little brief although it covers all the essential drugs used in psychiatric practice. This section could be expanded with advantage as these topics are likely to be most frequently referred to by doctors.

This little textbook provides a useful outline for candidates for the DPM and other higher examinations. It can serve as a basic textbook for medical students and general medical practitioners although because of its brevity the topics may be a little difficult to understand in depth.

For the local reader the chapter on legal considerations is not relevant and certain suggestions regarding psychiatric examination may not be practical, e.g. Interpretation of metaphors or proverbs, because of the variety of languages used here.

W. F. Tsoi

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A HANDBOOK OF OPHTHALMOLOGY FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The book is as it claims, just a hand book on the discipline for developing areas. The subject matter is clearly put forward although somewhat briefly with the exception of certain conditions which are found more frequently in Africa. The latter items are dealt with at greater length. It cer-

tainly is a useful book for medical students, paramedics and nurses in developing countries. It is not nearly adequate enough for more developed areas.

Robert C. K. Loh
