

each of six syndromes (Down's, Prader-Willi, craniofacial, mucopolysaccharidosis, tuberous sclerosis, Rett) are followed by an editorial chapter which summarises sleep-related characteristics of an additional five disorders and provides key references on eight more. The same attention to detail can be found in sections on neurological disorders, non-neurological disorders and psychiatric disorders. My first reaction was that this approach must surely lead to an unhelpful combination of skimming the surface and needless repetition. However, this is not the case. The book opens with a series of chapters from the editors on general issues in assessment and management of sleep, permitting contributions thereafter to focus solely upon specific associations and behavioural phenotypes. The result is a lightly referenced, clinical introduction, in which the editors' experience shines through, complemented by a thoroughly referenced set of chapters that provide both academic and clinical sustenance.

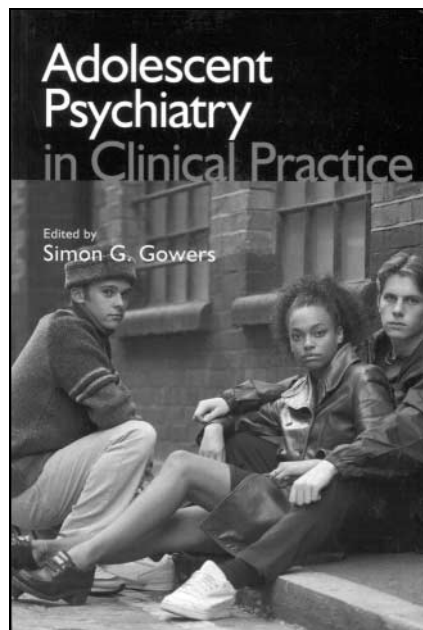
My only criticism is that the book ends rather abruptly. More might have been made of the methodological and research agenda in this important area, although useful pointers are given. However, Stores & Wiggs do set out an educational framework for child health practitioners that provides those responsible for undergraduate and postgraduate curricula with the challenge of the 24-hour care perspective central to the well-being of people with disabilities and those who care for them. This work has all the hallmarks of becoming a standard textbook. It should be widely read and appreciated.

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### Adolescent Psychiatry in Clinical Practice

Edited by Simon G. Gowers. London: Arnold. 2001. 560 pp. £45.00 (hb). ISBN 0 340 76384 1

Evidence-based practice is the marriage of individual clinical expertise with the best available scientific evidence. This helpful and up-to-date textbook brings considerable clinical expertise to the available evidence in adolescent psychiatry and



should be useful to practitioners from all disciplines who work with adolescents. Specialist adolescent psychiatry is still relatively undeveloped in the UK, but this book marshals an impressive array of talent among the chapter authors.

The text is divided into four sections: developmental influences, descriptions of disorders, service provision and treatment. However, in attempting to provide breadth of coverage, depth is sometimes sacrificed. For example, only 6 pages are devoted to depression in the affective disorder chapter, 18 pages to descriptions of conduct disorder and delinquency and 12 to psychosis – all major problems in adolescents. Nevertheless, the positives far outweigh the negatives in this book. The opening chapters on development and influences on development are clear and informative. Although brief, the descriptions of disorder convey a real feel for clinical work, and throughout there is a commendable emphasis on placing the adolescent in a developmental and social context. There are good chapters describing assessment and the delivery of services, important given the relative lack of specialist adolescent services around.

Adolescence is a minefield of potential ethical and legal dilemmas for the unwary clinician: for example, Gillick-competent children can consent to treatment without their parents being involved, but their refusal to consent to treatment can be overridden by parents. The chapter devoted to ethical and legal issues takes a problem-solving approach, presenting common

ethical/clinical difficulties and applying basic ethical principles to suggest just solutions. This chapter and the one that follows, on responding to young offenders, also provide a helpful guide to the legislative framework within which adolescent psychiatrists must work. The final section, on treatments, covers the usual ground, but the inclusion of an entire chapter on prevention is welcome.

This is a good, basic textbook. The editor fulfils his ambition of producing a book that is readable, practical and scholarly. The fact that it is produced almost entirely by psychiatrists does not in any way detract from its utility for a wide range of professionals who come into contact with adolescents.

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### Borderline Personality Disorder: A Clinical Guide

By John G. Gunderson. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Press. 2001. 329 pp. £47.95 (hb). ISBN 1 5862 016 5

This is a masterly contemporary clinical, empirical and theoretical overview of borderline personality disorder (BPD). The author was considerably involved in the

