

Book reviews

EDITED BY SIDNEY CROWN, FEMI OYEBODE and ROSALIND RAMSAY

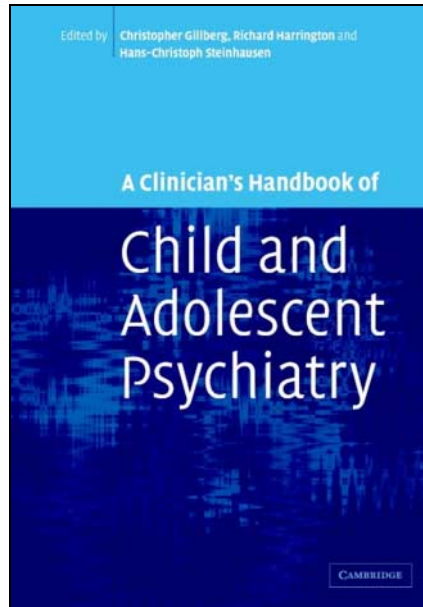
A Clinician's Handbook of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Edited by Christopher Gillberg,
Richard Harrington
& Hans-Christoph Steinhausen.
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2006. 726 pp. £65.00 (hb). ISBN 0521819369

This substantial textbook, edited by well-known academics and clinicians, certainly provides a comprehensive guide to all the common disorders that clinicians working within child and adolescent mental health services are likely to encounter.

The book uses a slightly unusual format in that 'the emphasis is on providing clinical guidance' rather than an exhaustive review of each disorder. This is a strength, in my view, but if trainees are to use the book regularly, then an awareness that not all research findings are included, and that theoretical approaches are not covered, is important.

In my opinion the book achieves its aim of providing a valuable resource that is readily accessible, as the uniform layout of the chapters is intuitively sensible and the information is condensed well, enabling the clinician to find what they need easily. A particular strength of the book is the appendices, which provide tools for assessment of intervention planning and evaluation. In an age when quality control has become a watchword, this book provides significant assistance in a readily available format. All the chapters are well written but I particularly liked the one on eating disorders, which includes very helpful lists and tables as well as a comprehensive appendix including three commonly used questionnaires. The percentile charts were perhaps less successful. The chapter on gender identity disorders was also excellent and I have used the information and questionnaires to good effect.



Overall I would recommend this book to clinicians and perhaps particularly to new consultants taking an active role in quality assurance.

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Juvenile-Onset Schizophrenia: Assessment, Neurobiology, and Treatment

Edited by Robert L. Findling
& S. Charles Schulz.
The Johns Hopkins University Press.
2005. 311 pp. US\$49.95 (hb).
ISBN 0801880181

Editing a book in which chapters are written by multiple authors from different perspectives is a difficult task. Some

authors present complex methodology from their own large studies whereas others review recent evidence. The editors of *Juvenile-Onset Schizophrenia* have, however, managed to bring together these different perspectives and the reader is presented with an abundance of clinically useful information.

With 13 chapters ranging from phenomenology and assessment, neurophysiology and development, and the prodromal course to pharmacological and psychosocial treatment, the scope and aims of the book are large. I enjoyed flicking from gyrification of the cerebral cortex through molecular genetic studies to school interventions (although this was somewhat bereft of detail – don't let your schoolchildren with psychosis study Kafka is the upshot).

I like the way this book makes hard science relevant to clinical practice. The only oversight I can see is that there is no mention of recent advances in our understanding of the role of cannabis in the development and precipitation of schizophrenia. This is highly relevant to the adolescent population.

Schizophrenia is a diagnosis that bridges the adolescent–adult chasm in psychiatry and so it behoves both camps to be well informed of recent advances. Sometimes it still feels as if general adult and child and adolescent psychiatrists are looking at the same clinical picture from very different perspectives. This book should raise awareness of juvenile-onset schizophrenia and that must be for the good.

This is not a book I will reach for every day, but I have enjoyed reading it and will undoubtedly use it. It is also a good resource for teaching medical students about the neurobiology underpinning schizophrenia or for an overview of the prodrome.

I would recommend this to practising clinicians who, even if infrequently, see patients with early-onset schizophrenia, be they in child and adolescent or adult services.

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