



columns

The strength of the report lies in the description of the development of the actual services, their contexts and their activities. The accounts convince the reader that much of value was achieved, while being frank about difficulties. Many of these (staff recruitment and retention, inability to solve problems with housing, employment and benefits, and difficulty forming partnerships with other stakeholders, including primary care) are common to many London services. In the face of these, even successful service developments may be insufficient to get us 'out of the maze'.

An evaluation of the services is given, based on stakeholder interviews. The conclusions tend to be cautiously positive, though the real difficulties of developing integrated services in the London context also emerge. More rigorous evaluations of these service models are needed, and two of the services are carrying out randomised trials to be reported separately. A final chapter makes common sense recommendations and this should ensure that the report finds a place as a useful primer for service developers. However, its clear description of a fragmented and complex service context should warn policy makers that there is unlikely to be a single 'London Model' to rival Birmingham's.

Jonathan Bindman Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, South London and Maudsley NHS Trust, Section of Community Psychiatry (PRISM), Health Services Research Department, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, De Crespigny Park, London SE5 8AF. E-mail: j.bindman@iop.kcl.ac.uk

Psychology for the MRCPsych (2nd edn)

Marcus Munafò
London: Arnold, 2002, 198pp.
£18.99 PB, ISBN: 0-340-80911-6

This is a book written for trainee psychiatrists by a psychologist experienced in preparing candidates for the Part I examination. He finds that candidates are unhappy when presented with a heavy-weight introductory psychology textbook, and this text serves as an introduction, a glossary and a source of multiple-choice questions to help revision.

My main concern probably reflects the structure of the MRCPsych exam as much as this book. Conceptually similar material seems to be dotted, almost arbitrarily, through several sections. So while learning, modelling, conditioning etc. appear as 'basic psychology', social learning theory pops up without cross-reference in 'social psychology' (p. 83) and again under 'human development' (p. 124) and learnt fears are treated elsewhere (p. 155). There are also lacunae. For example, for psychiatrists to understand intelligence quotient (IQ) assessments, it might help them to know that two-thirds

of the population have IQs between 90 and 110. Indeed, this may be far more important than being able to define IQ. The number of self-report questions also seems unbalanced: the Social section (28 pp) has 35 questions and Assessment (12 pp) 65.

I admire the author's bravery in attempting to cover the whole of psychology, but there are niggles such as a fundamentally incorrect definition of IQ (p. 106) and ordinal scales (p. 107), an idiosyncratic definition of split-half reliability (p. 102), the claim that there are only two sub-scales in the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (p. 106; there are 11 sub-scales, best combined to yield scores on four ability factors) and an idiosyncratic reading of the behaviour-genetic literature (p. 127), which ignores adoption studies. Likewise, readers may think that behaviour-genetic designs are limited to simple additive models (p. 123), which is incorrect. This book should surely present mainstream opinion. There are also a few incorrectly-spelled authors' names and some terms appear to be used without being defined (e.g., p. 102).

This book is well-written, the index is good, and many of the succinct definitions and sample questions are likely to help trainees' revision. However, there are problems as noted above and the structure of the book makes for a disjointed read.

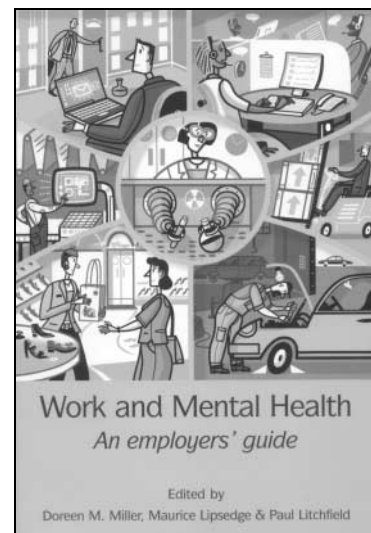
Colin Cooper Senior Lecturer, School of Psychology, The Queen's University, Belfast BT7 1NN, UK

Work and Mental Health: an Employer's Guide

Miller, D. M., Lipsedge, M. & Litchfield, P. (eds).
London: Gaskell, 2002, £20 pb,
176 pp. ISBN: 1-901242-85-4

There seems to be little doubt that work plays an important role in the well-being of the population. Work is after all, *just about the only thing that you can do for eight hours a day*. This book, aimed at employers and occupational health workers, contains a series of articles from a string of leaflets on 'The ABC of Mental Health for Occupational Physicians' and presentations from a conference on 'Mental Well-being in the Workforce – Current Practice'.

The book is divided into chapters concerned with assessing mental health problems and specific disorders written by clinicians and a series of case studies on employers' schemes to improve practice in the workplace. The former are of value to those working in occupational health settings, but the latter may be of interest to general practitioners and those working in mental health services. The chapter on legal aspects of mental health in the workplace is particularly useful.



As with many edited books containing material written for other purposes, there are important omissions. The book has missed an opportunity to outline the importance of work and employment for those with a mental illness. Work for people with mental illness is given an important place in the National Service Framework and both getting people with mental illness into work and keeping them in employment is crucial. More importantly for this book, the National Health Service (NHS) is one of the largest employers in the United Kingdom, yet there is no mention of schemes in NHS Trusts that employ users of mental health services. These schemes not only create jobs, but also challenge many of the barriers and misconceptions about employing people with mental health problems.

Employment for those with a mental illness is of significance to the process of recovery and to social inclusion. It is important that employers, occupational physicians, general practitioners and mental health workers are made aware of these matters and liaison between these groups encouraged. This book may have a role to play in promoting this awareness and collaboration.

Jed Boardman Consultant Senior Lecturer in Social Psychiatry, Institute of Psychiatry, South London and Maudsley NHS Trust, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AF

Outcome Measurement in Psychiatry: a Critical Review

IsHak, W. W., Burt, T. & Sederer, L. I. (eds). Washington, American Psychiatric Association, 2002, £69.95 pb. ISBN: 0-88048-119-6

There is international interest in establishing outcome measurement as part of routine practice in mental health services. This book is therefore timely. Its main limitation is that it concentrates almost exclusively on developments in the United