

*Book reviews*

**Integrated Mental Health Care: A Comprehensive Community-Based Approach.** By Ian R. Falloon & Grainne Fadden. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1993. Pp. 335. £45.00 (hb).

The authors of this book have established reputations in the field of psychosocial and community approaches to mental illness. The present text builds on their previous work and attempts to demonstrate how the philosophy of community psychiatry and psychobiosocial models of disorder inform clinical practice. Descriptions of service models gradually give way to practical advice on clinical management while the final pages offer data from the assessment of the Buckingham service. Junior doctors and community based staff will find the descriptions of clinical interventions such as working with the families of mentally ill people and the case examples useful guidelines to good practice. Professionals taking on some degree of operational responsibility will also find the sections on models of service, assessment schedules for individual clients and service evaluation procedures to be sensible introductions to these topics. The only group who may express some reservations are those with a more circumscribed research interest. Although over 30 pages are dedicated to the service evaluation, there are some interesting aspects (such as annual referral patterns, case mix and costing) that leave the reader wanting to know more. It could be argued that a textbook cannot answer all such questions, but in retrospect it may have been better either to publish the research data entirely separately or to expand this section of the book to give a more detailed analysis.

The price of the hardback copy of this book will mean that many juniors will be seeking the library copy rather than purchasing it for themselves. It certainly complements more theoretical texts on models of service as it provides an overview of clinical and operational issues. Its strengths are that it is written in a coherent way by people who obviously have 'hands on' experience of the development and practice of community psychiatry, and has chapters on therapy which offer management strategies that are equally applicable in community and other treatment settings. If I were to look for weakness, perhaps too little space was devoted to some of the issues that cause concern to those developing community services. More space could have been given to the following: specifying exactly why the model for Buckingham (which targeted primary care) was chosen from the alternative community models available; more consideration of the community management of the patient who is a danger to others; more thoughts on the low rate of referral of psychotic patients; and more detail on the role of hospitalis-

ation in community-based services. Such criticisms must, however, be seen in the context that the authors have attempted to do what few people could achieve. Given the spectrum of issues covered, the book cannot be expected to deal with all these topics in an in-depth manner and ultimately it evolves into an introductory text. However, it is likely to have some appeal to most mental health professionals.

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**Prison Statistics England and Wales 1991.** (Cm. 2157) Home Office. 1993. Pp. 130. £16.50. HMSO.

*Prison Statistics for England and Wales 1991* consist of a compendium of dry, tabulated statistics, which are underpinned by a great deal of misery and suffering. The tabulations are clarified by graphs and clear verbal summaries.

The mentally ill are not categorised.

The average sentence population in 1991 was 35,400, similar to the average for 1990 (35,500). Seasonally adjusted the sentenced population rose steadily during 1991 from 34,800 at the end of December 1990 to 36,000 at the end of December 1991.

The reclassification of some offences as summarised by the Criminal Justice Act 1988 at estimated to have reduced the prison population by around 700 between 1988 and 1989. For young offenders it is likely that the changes in sentencing introduced on the 1 October by the Criminal Justice Act 1988 and the government measures to divert offenders from custody, including the expansion of voluntary sector supervision schemes, had a continuing effect.

In 1991 an average of 1,090 prisoners were held in police cells, considerably more than in 1989 and 1990, 110 and 660 respectively, but similar in the number in 1988 (1,080). The average population in custody seems to have been following a steadily increasing trend since 1980, with wider fluctuations in reception into prison service establishments. The numbers rose as the prison population increased in general.

The composition of the sentenced adult male population has changed remarkably. In 1984 those serving sentences for violent offences (violence against a person, rape, other sexual offences and robbery) accounted for 33% of the total. This had grown to 45% by 1990 but had edged down to 43% in 1991. Over the ten years from 1981 to 1991, offenders sentenced with violence against a person, sexual offences and robbery increased from 31% of the population under an immediate custodial sentence to 48%.