

Psychiatry' will give us reasonably valid ready-made judgements, clear and short. That will be a first-class service.

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schizophrenia and gives an unhelpful introduction to the very real issues of the disorder.

Production: Northumberland Health Authority.

Distribution: Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic, Ellison Building, Ellison Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8ST.

Price: £55, including postage and packing.

*Director C. P. SEAGER
National Health Service
Health Advisory Service
Sutton, Surrey*

Videotapes

Schizophrenia: What Does It Mean? (UK, 1987, 40 mins)

This videotape is a well produced review of the features of schizophrenia with emphasis on a particular individual. Included in the cast are Jimmy Savile, Richard Baker and Anthony Clare, all TV personalities.

The patient is an Oxford graduate who developed schizophrenia during his period as a student and attributes the fact that he got a second class degree instead of a first to the onset of the condition. The picture built up is of an isolated, lonely individual whose feelings are highlighted by two sequences representing the perceptual and emotional distortion and the empty landscape of the schizophrenic relationship.

Extensive, somewhat textbook descriptions of the condition are offered, together with a brief outline of theories of causation and treatment.

The videotape is a good one, spoilt only by the extensive introduction putting forward the view that one should look on schizophrenia as an illness comparable with paraplegia (both long and frightening words) and both requiring help from sympathetic onlookers. The seven minute emphasis on physical illness is out of proportion to the time allocated to

Other videotapes available:

Healthy City Video: This has been commissioned by the Mersey Health Promotion Unit and provides a comprehensive introduction to the Healthy Cities Project, an initiative by the World Health Organisation European Office in support of the renaissance of public health in urban areas. It is available in VHS, price £15, including VAT. Cheques should be made payable to MRHA. Orders should be marked for the attention of Mr Howard Seymour, Regional Health Promotion Officer, Mersey Regional Health Authority, Hamilton House, 24 Pall Mall, Liverpool L3 6AL (telephone 051 236 4620).

Stress: Videotapes of the series of six programmes which were broadcast on HTV Wales during February and March and on all regions of ITV during April and May are available in VHS at £14.95 per programme or £60 for all six programmes. Prices include VAT and postage and packing. Cheques should be made payable to HTV Enterprises. Orders should be sent to: HTV, PO Box 2000, Cardiff CF5 6XJ. An information pack is available from the same address on receipt of an 8" x 12" stamped addressed envelope with 40 p in stamps.