interacting systems both set in a social environment. Hence the book presents various biological events in their non-biological context. But is the biological realm truly primary? Is it separate? The authors write about patients interpreting symptoms, for example, as if symptoms pop up like little biological bricks: but the symptom is itself a percept, socially and psychologically determined, so how can an 'interpretation' be interpreted? The authors write about a biological dimension analysable into pathological and physiological, as if these were properties inherent in the cells or organs themselves, and not a product of 'social' classification. The biological dominance is also to be found in the theoretical subservience to functionalism (what is the function of anxiety? depression? the personality? etc.) which owes more to Claude Bernard than to modern views of society. Why should we assume that the patient's non-compliance is dysfunctional? Why should the patient who continues to smoke be said to show 'denial' of the scientific evidence? Yes, the patient is important; but real people, in a sense, do not exist other than in our theories about the world, and limited theories tend to produce somewhat stunted people.

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Licensing and Certification of Psychologists and Counselors. By BRUCE R. FRETZ and DAVID H. MILLS. London: Jossey-Bass. 1980. Pp 194. £11.20.

The unregistered status of applied psychologists in this country is of increasing concern to the profession. This book looks at the American situation which is presently a hotch potch of mixed Federal and State legislation, and is a guide to practitioner and consumer alike, who may be baffled by the plethora of credentials and what they represent. There has been state licensing in the U.S. since 1946 although only in the last 10 years has there been a serious effort to provide a national accepted credential. The authors present all the arguments for and against registration in an impartial fashion, with plenty of reference to other mental health professions and to the client. What the British reader might like to consider is how the U.K. which is *still* debating legal registration is to achieve it, and secondly, in implementing the EEC directives regarding the movement of professionals in Europe, how it will avoid the enormous variations and anomalies that have occurred in the U.S. making this rather depressing textbook so very necessary.

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Notes About Books

Death Anxiety: The Loss of the Self. By JAMES B. MCCARTHY. Chichester: John Wiley. 1980. Pp 228. £11.00.

A thorough explanation of the relationship between fear of death, separation anxiety and depression, which would be interesting and useful to analysts and psychotherapists.

Perspective on Death and Dying Series: 1. Death and Dying: Views from many Cultures. 2. Caring Relationships: The Dying and the Bereaved. 3. Death, Dying, Transcending. Edited by RICHARD A. KALISH. Farmingdale, New York: Baywood Publishing. 1980. Pp 154 (each volume). $17.95 (3-volume set).

Volume 2 of this series is worthwhile reading for anyone working with the dying and bereaved; the other two offer papers of very variable quality.

AVERIL STEDEFORD, *Senior Psychiatric Registrar, Department of Psychotherapy, The Warneford Hospital, and Sir Michael Sobell House, Oxford*

A Handbook of Medical Hypnosis. 4th Edition. By GORDON AMBROSE and GEORGE NEWBOLD. London: Bailliere Tindall. 1980. Pp 213. £8.50.

In this new edition there is a chapter on the forensic applications of hypnosis but little else which is new. The authors present complex case histories with relief of problems following hypnosis, but there is little discussion of selection of patients for treatment.

R. P. SNAITH, *Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry, The University of Leeds*

Counselling with Gay Men and Women. N. J. WOODMAN and H. R. LENNA. London: Jossey-Bass. 1980. Pp 144. Price: £10.35.

Sensible, straightforward account of the assessment and management of homosexual problems in their societal context and personal expression. 'Coming out', homosexual life styles at all ages, family and couple problems with supporting case material. Useful annotated bibliography.

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https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007125000133197 Published online by Cambridge University Press