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# *Notes About Books*

**Psychiatric Illness. 3rd Edition.** By H. MERSKEY. London: Baillière Tindall. 1980. Pp 434. £7.50.

**Psychiatry in Dissent. 2nd Edition.** By ANTHONY CLARE. London: Tavistock. 1980. Pp 460. £10.00, £5.25 (paperback).

**Autistic Children. 3rd Edition.** By LORNA WING. London: Constable. 1980. Pp 168. £5.25, £2.95 (paperback).

Dr Merskey's book is directed at students and general practitioners and approaches psychiatry via common presenting symptoms rather than systematically reviewing diagnostic categories. Generally well written, the content is of variable quality with some chapters, e.g. that on marital and sexual problems, better than others.

Dr Clare has updated and slightly expanded his book on controversial and important issues in psychiatry. It received wide acclaim when first published and remains a must for practitioners, teachers and students of psychiatry as well as for the interested members of the general public.

Dr Lorna Wing's lucidly written book conveys with sympathy and understanding much sound practical advice for parents with autistic children of all ages and at all stages of their development. Its usefulness is not restricted to parents but is of value to all those involved in the care and education of this group of children.

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**Severe and Mild Depression: The Psychotherapeutic Approach.** By SILVANO ARIETI and JULES BEMPORAD. London: Tavistock. 1980. Pp 453. £10.00.

A useful and interesting account of the authors' clinical experience in treating depression. Their theoretical stance is basically psychoanalytic but also incorporates key concepts from other theories, especially cognitive theory. The case studies are particularly vivid and a strength of the volume.

**Treatment of the Obsessive Personality.** By LEON SALZMAN. New York: Jason Aronson. 1980. Pp 528. $25.00.

In this expanded, revised version Salzman provides an account of his vast experience in treating—chiefly along psychoanalytic lines—patients presenting with obsessive compulsive behaviour. Half the book is devoted to an intricately detailed case study.

**The Psychotherapeutic Instrument.** By STANLEY L. OLINICK. New York: Jason Aronson. 1980. Pp 222. $17.50.

A collection of articles, published previously in various psychoanalytic journals. Olinick's chief concern is with some of the processes such as empathy, interpretation and questioning that occur in the course of psychoanalytic psychotherapy. Somewhat repetitive in quality; only analysts are likely to find the material of interest.

**The Dream in Clinical Practice.** Edited by JOSEPH M. NATTERSON. New York: Jason Aronson. 1980. Pp 498. $30.00.

A comprehensive volume of 28 original contributions on the place of dreams in psychoanalytic psychotherapy. Chapters on theory, dreams in different psychopathological states, and application in clinical practice; as the title suggests, the emphasis is on how to use dreams in clinical work. An uneven volume; several chapters top-heavy with technical jargon.

**Psychotherapy: Research and Training: Proceedings of the XIth International Congress of Psychotherapy held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, August 1979.** Edited by W. DE MOOR and H. R. WIJNGAARDEN. Amsterdam: Elsevier/North Holland. 1980. Pp 335. $51.25/Dfl. 105.00.

Some conference proceedings merit publication, others do not; this report can be readily assigned to the second category. Those few papers which are of some value could well have been published separately.

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