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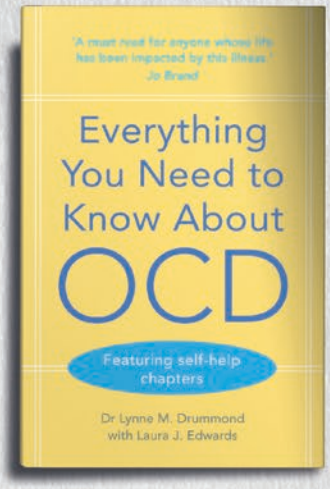
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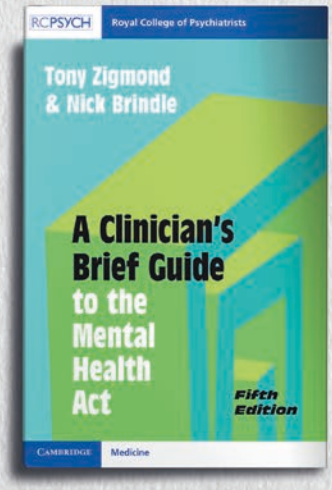
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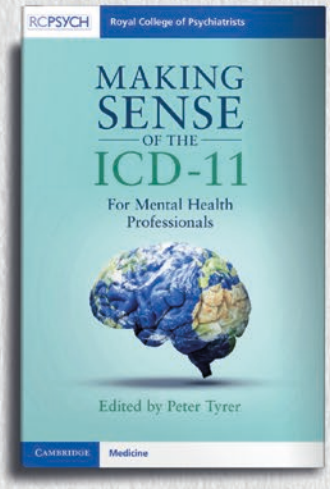
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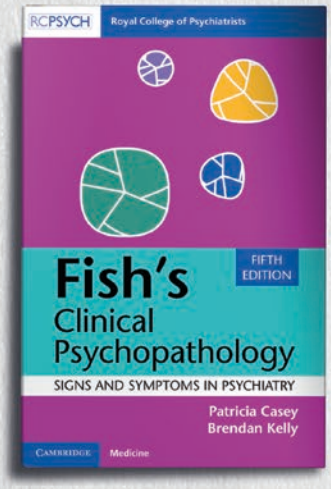
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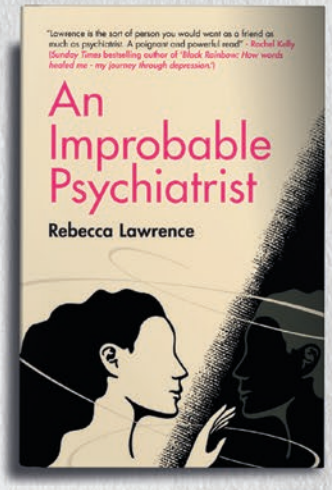
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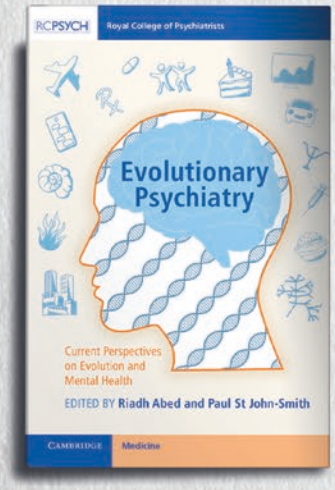


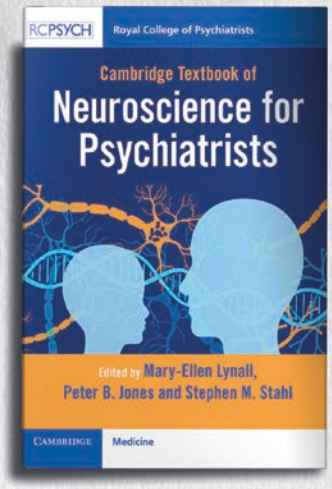


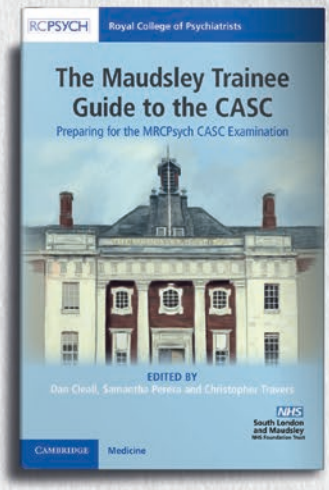


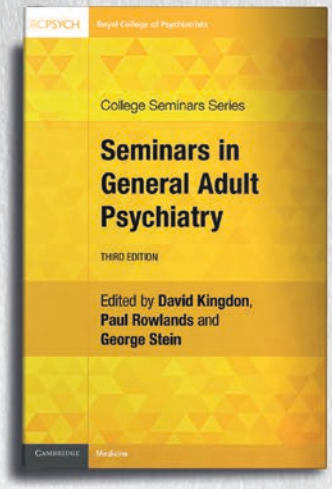












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ISSN 0007 - 1250

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Printed in Great Britain by Henry Ling Limited, The Dorset Press, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1HD.

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Vincent Van Gogh. The Ward in the Hospital at Arles, 1889.

Collection Oskar Reinhart. 'Am Römerholz', Winterthur.

This is the second picture that Vincent Van Gogh painted of the Hospital at Arles, where he had been admitted after cutting off his left ear during 'an attack of acute mania with generalized delirium'. Although started in the Hospital at Arles, he completed the painting in the Saint-Rémy asylum, to where he had been transferred in May 1889.

In a letter to his sister, Wilhelmina, in October 1889 from the Saint-Rémy asylum, Vincent described the picture: 'In the foreground a big black stove around which some grey and black forms of patients and then behind the very long ward paved in red with two rows of white beds, the partitions white, but a lilac – or green-white, and the windows with pink curtains, and in the background two figures of nuns in black and white'. He wrote that he had been influenced by reading an article about Dostoyevsky's novel, *Memories of the House of Dead*, which depicted in fictional form the author's experience of being incarcerated in a Siberian prison camp. Perhaps, Dostoyevsky's story of the quest for spiritual redemption whilst being confined in an institution resonated with Van Gogh.

Text by Allan Beveridge

Acknowledgment
Thanks to the Collection Oskar Reinhart for permission to feature this picture.

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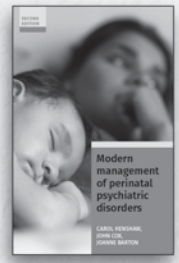
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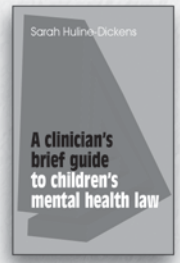
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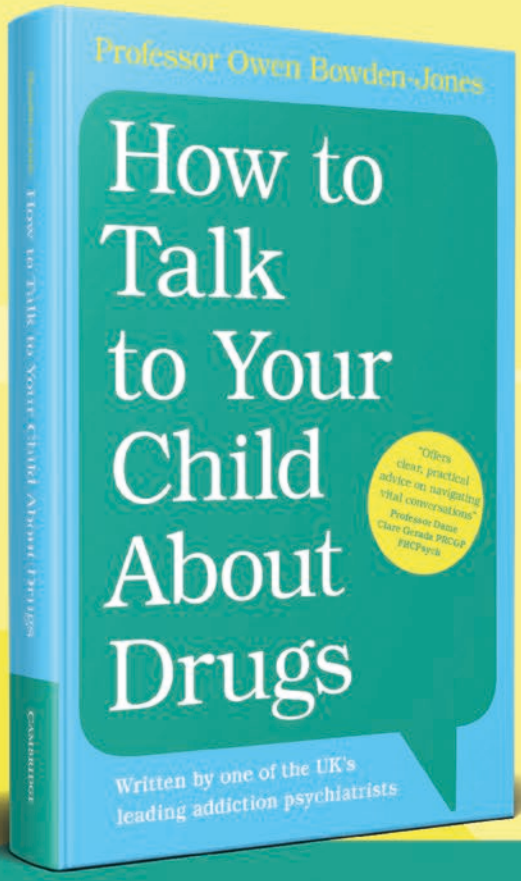
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