

roduction to some basic concepts of social science, illustrated by a "problem" case; (2) a sociohistorical discussion of the medical profession, of patient roles, and of the importance of the patient's family; (3) a sociohistorical discussion and description of the social organization of the general hospital, with some early contributions and three current approaches to the study of the mental hospital; and (4) a re-analysis of the "problem" case by use of the intervening material. This book, however, fails to achieve its purpose, primarily because two assumptions appear to be operating: that the medical student is completely ignorant of any social science and that he is equally ignorant of the sociohistorical roots of his own profession. The author has included many insights and important facts, but nowhere in this material does he go much beyond summarizing the work of others. In the chapter dealing with three approaches to the study of the mental hospital, he makes little evaluation of their data or even their theoretical position. Moreover, in a book designed to show the scope of social science, it is difficult to justify the neglect of recent research innovations and findings—e.g., the cross-cultural studies of hospitals and professionals in modern society, the studies of hospitals by survey methods and "operations" or "human engineering" research, or material on the changing roles and relations vis-a-vis the patient of nurses and other ancillary personnel.

Even on its own ground the book falters. While the author states that the doctor-patient relationship is the unifying theme, it is so only in the sense that doctors and/or patients are the subjects of all the chapters. There is little meaningful integration of the material of Parts II and III (particularly the latter) in a way which helps us to understand the doctor-patient relationship in general and the "problem" case in particular. For example, the discussion of the general hospital focuses entirely on its bureaucratic organization, with little mention of how this and other aspects of its structure might affect patient-care or the doctor-patient relationship, discussed in recent books and articles on life in the ward. The material which is presented hardly does justice to what each of these parties brings to this re-

lationship. There is little attention to the effect of medical education and specialty training on the doctor's attitudes toward his patients and the differing complaints they may present; furthermore, in a book which is concerned with "social and emotional factors in illness" the neglect of the provocative work on the "career" of seeking help (the stages, the importance of referral systems, the factors in the decision to seek help or to be hospitalized) is difficult to comprehend. Perhaps most important is the neglect of the fact that it is a relationship which is being discussed. While social psychological research is used in the opening chapters to illustrate the importance of the social context of behavior, no similar research is brought to bear on the nature of communication or interaction within this or any relationship.

Thus, this book seems to reflect one side of a silent controversy within the group concerned with the integration of social science and medicine. The author's faction appears to feel that a translation or watering down of social science is necessary. My faction feels that if social science methods and concepts are difficult to understand, it holds equally for the student of medicine as for the student of social science and that good social science can, with minor editing and explanation, be read with understanding and profit by any interested professional. The very superficiality and lack of analytic depth of this book only contributes to the view that many professionals already hold—namely, that social science is superficial and lacking in depth. Books which attempt to integrate previous research and demonstrate the scope of methods available for the study of sociomedical problems are badly needed. This, however, is not one of them.

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Narcotic Drug Addiction

Mental Health Monograph 2, U. S. Public Health Service

U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1963, 22 pp., 25 cents.

Dr. Robert H. Felix states in the preface that he believes this publication can play a significant role in imparting sound informa-

tion about drug addiction. The monograph is intended for professionals who deal with addicted individuals. It is a succinct and graphic presentation of what is known about drug addiction.

Our current drug addiction problems are outlined within a historical context. Estimates that the addicts in New York City alone must raise illegally more than a half million dollars a day to maintain their drug "habits" give a feeling for the magnitude of this problem. Numerous social agencies come into contact with these people in the process of their "cures" and relapses which imposes further burdens on society. The practical aspects of recognizing and treating the acute phases of this illness are mentioned. The authors give a detailed description of the treatment program in the U. S. Public Health Service Hospital at Lexington, Ky. Studies of several aftercare programs revealed that addicted persons need constant step-by-step support to maintain their periods of abstinence. This seems to be the most difficult and crucial phase in the rehabilitation of these patients.

The section on preventing addiction is distressingly brief and contains suggestions for "improving blighted areas" and "reducing the availability of illegal drugs." I feel this is a function of how much more needs to be known about the social aspects of drug addiction.

The physiologic responses to narcotics and the types of psychiatric problems that lead to addiction are discussed with attention to some of their subtle aspects. Other drugs are mentioned, and this is important in view of the high incidence of concomitant addictions to narcotics and barbiturates. The increased usage of amphetamine derivatives by the younger addicts is also worthy of notice.

In summary, it is felt that addiction is a symptom of personality maladjustment. The physical aspects are readily treated, but the psychological dependence is rarely modified without long-term, continuous, multifaceted treatment programs. How this can most efficiently be accomplished poses a series of questions in need of attention.

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