

Finally, Dr. Whybrow reminds us that, "In a collective denial of aging — at the other end of the life cycle — we employ all available technologies to simulate youth, misunderstanding that the secret to immortality lies not in the individual but in the society we leave behind" (p. 260).

This is a great analysis of the Fast New American World and what the author astutely calls American mania. Dr. Whybrow puts together seemingly unrelated work and thinking of Tocqueville, Adam Smith, Darwin, Freud and certainly also his own. He explains some of the societal ills in the frame of neurobiology. He points out the mismatch between our inherited biology and the demands of our time-sensitive commercial culture, and the fact that the "America's technology-driven Fast New World is already testing the limits of human physiology" (p. 78). The book is great bedtime reading for everybody. It provides a lot of food for thought. Many clinicians could wholeheartedly recommend this book to their busy patients — provided that they can convince them to find time to read it. I hope they convince them. Many readers may feel that they know all the particular ideas and facts mentioned in this book. Maybe they do. Separately. But Dr. Whybrow puts them together in a unique analysis and provides a thoughtful perspective of our fast, frenzied and paradoxical times. This book is definitely highly recommended, enjoyable reading.

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Acute and Transient Psychoses. By Andreas Marneros and Frank Pillmann; Cambridge University Press, New York, New York; 2004 ISBN: 0-521-83518-6; \$110.00 (hardcover), 252 pp.

The authors compare the DSM-IV diagnosis of "Brief Psychotic Disorder" and the ICD-10 "Acute and Transient Psychotic Disorders" with each other and against diagnoses of schizophrenia and the bipolar type of schizoaffective disorder, although other disorders such as schizophreniform disorder and various terms that have been used historically are also discussed from time to time. They make the case that these brief and intermittent psychoses are, to some extent, the "left-over material" after many of our better defined psychotic disorders have been identified and sharply defined.

The book's thirteen chapters are divided into three major segments: historical and conceptual issues; research findings; and specific issues of nosology. The main themes include whether or not either or both of the brief or acute diagnostic categories as currently defined are truly different from other psychotic illness in definite, reproducible ways, and if so, what these diagnoses really tell us about symptom patterns and prognosis. The fundamental basis for the majority of the book is a combined prospective and retrospective study designed and administered by the authors at the Halle University Hospital, in

what was formerly known as East Germany. It is fortunate that the authors have this data set from which to write, since the other studies relating to these diagnostic entities are few in number, and most suffer from the difficulty of adequately defining the disease entity studied. Given their study population, they are able to comment on such matters as longitudinal course, suicidal behaviors, clinical features, and demographics specific to these categories. Conclusions, which are clear and concise, at which the authors were able to arrive through analysis of the available data are set aside from the main body of the writing by being boxed in and set in different type, so they are easy for the reader to identify throughout the book.

The final few chapters explore the problems and potential solutions in defining and conceptualizing brief and acute/transient psychoses, discussing how the American Psychiatric Association and the World Health Organization have utilized time and phenomenological approaches to do so. The authors conclude, based on their results, that there is no substantial difference between the DSM-IV and the ICD-10 brief psychotic entities. They define both what is and is not supported by their work and that of other researchers in this field. The book ends with an extensive references section, followed by a subject index.

This is a text that will particularly interest the psychiatrist who sees unusual presentations of psychosis. While some of the time that includes all of us, I would think that community-based and tertiary referral (especially university-based) psychiatrists would be two excellent audiences, as well as those who want and need a manageable and up-to-date (to 2004) overview of the world literature on brief psychotic states. Since it covers its subject matter so completely, students may also find it useful, especially the chapters in the history and concepts section — although the price may deter students who do not have access to it in a library setting. The book is quite well written and, if further explanation is required, contains a number of charts and tables to summarize or illustrate the information discussed in the text. While some might argue with how definitively the authors state their conclusions, I found their approach both refreshing and helpful.

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The Neurobiology of Aggression and Rage. By Allan Siegel; CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida; 2004; ISBN 0-415-30834-8; \$129.95 (hardbound), 312 pp.

Dr. Siegel has devoted nearly forty years to the study of the physiology, chemistry and anatomy of aggression and rage. In this book, he covers multiple aspects of aggression in eleven chapters, beginning with a summary of just what aggression is and the history of neurological enquiry in this field. Within these introductory chapters, the discussion of Dr. Kenneth