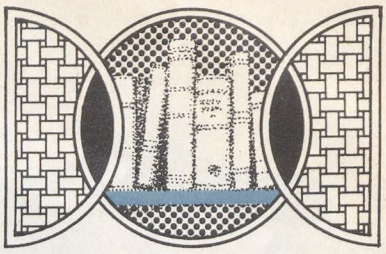
Book Reviews



Legal Issues in Psychiatric Care. *Laurence R. Tancredi, Julian Lieb and Andrew E. Slaby. Harper and Row, Publishers, Hagerstown, Maryland, 1975, 164 pp., $10.75.*

Forgetting for a moment the specter of the malpractice crisis, there are two other prime reasons for the basic distrust of lawyers and "the law" exhibited by the majority of health-care professionals, especially physicians. These two factors are, firstly, the failure to appreciate the philosophy of the legal profession and, secondly, an utter ignorance of the historic development – logical or illogical though it may have been – of legal doctrines which impact on the practice of medicine.

The authors of *Legal Issues in Psychiatric Care* have succeeded in their stated purpose, to "present information and discussions . . . " and, " . . . ready guidelines without a morass of legal jargon." In addition, they have been able to inject some of the spirit of the development of the particular aspects of the law with which they are concerned. I believe this book to be a welcome addition to the library of psychiatrists and psychiatric residents, as well as other health professionals working in this area. More important for our purposes, however, this volume will be an asset to the family physician who pays more than lip service to his or her role as the health-care provider of initial contact for most patients with psychiatrically-oriented problems. This role involves not only outpatient psychiatry and counseling, but also the advising of patients and their families in matters pertaining to commitment proceedings, drug and alcohol problems, and patients' rights in general. *Legal Issues in Psychiatric Care* is an enjoyable, easily read, concise adjunct to the physician in serving these functions.

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Rheumatology for Clinicians. *W. Jeffrey Fessel. Stratton Intercontinental Medical Book Corporation, New York, 1975, 312 pp., $19.75.*

This book is written for general internists by a rheumatologist who practices in the Kaiser-Permanente Medical Center in San Francisco. It is intended to supplement such larger texts as that by Hollander, whose approach is more enclyclopedic. To a limited degree the book draws upon the author's ten-year experience with the Kaiser-Permanente plan and data available on the 100,000 adult Kaiser-Permanente subscribers living in the San Francisco area. For example, musculoskeletal pain not clearly associated with other disease and osteoarthritis accounted for more than half of 4,751 musculoskeletal problems coded during a six-month period. Rheumatoid arthritis, gout and periarthritis of the shoulder were the next most common and constituted about one fourth of the total.

The main body of the book does not deal as effectively with the common but often ill-defined rheumatologic problems as one is led to anticipate from the introduction. The first chapter on common pain syndromes discusses several causes of musculoskeletal pain, but this high frequency area of clinical practice is dealt with superficially in light of the author's stated intent. Osteoarthritis is discussed only incidentally in scattered references. On the other hand, a chapter on the associations and consequences of hyperuricemia effectively addresses a problem area frequently encountered and often inappropriately managed by physicians without formal training in rheumatology. Treatment of rheumatologic problems is reserved for the final chapter and is discussed quite superficially.

The bibliography is extensive and

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