

EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRY AND MENTAL HEALTH POLICY: AN INTERNATIONAL POINT OF VIEW*

Edited by M De Clercq, S Lamarre and H Vergouwen. Pp. xiv + 269. NLG235/US\$135. Elsevier Science BV. 1998. ISBN 0-444-50015-4.

South Africa has become a country captivated with changing old systems for new, and psychiatric services have not escaped attempts at rejuvenation. Not every change is necessarily an improvement. Improving health services requires innovative ideas but innovation requires sound knowledge.

Emergency Psychiatry and Mental Health Policy is a new book that provides information on the delivery of acute psychiatric care in different parts of the world. The book is divided into introductory chapters that detail aspects of emergency psychiatric care such as clinical implications, care in large cities, the rights of the patients and deinstitutionalisation. Further chapters examine care on different continents. Emergency psychiatric services in the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Denmark, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Greece and South Africa are discussed. The contribution from South Africa by Professor C Gagiano is outstanding, and comprises a succinct summary of the Free State model for community and emergency psychiatry.

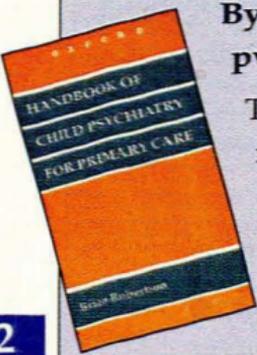
This book is primarily aimed at policy makers. Officials and clinicians who are involved in mental health policy will find in this book a convenient collection of reports detailing the organisation of emergency psychiatry care in different parts of the world.

Frans J Hugo

HANDBOOK OF CHILD PSYCHIATRY FOR PRIMARY CARE*

By Brian Robertson, 368pp,
pvc/flexicover, R150

This handbook provides straightforward information on the diagnosis, aetiology, and treatment of all major psychiatric disorders that affect children and adolescents.



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