

psychological cults into the workplace is shown to be a major focus of current cult activity. Techniques of recruiting and the process of brainwashing are reviewed. Some of the major cults are discussed. No one book could cover them all, but this part of the discussion is done in such a manner as to allow one to recognize parallel patterns in other situations. Finally, the authors discuss the problems of rescuing the children, leaving the cult, and returning to normal, healthy, responsible living. The text is supplemented by a good reading list, as well as recommendations with regard to resources and organizations one can turn to for assistance.

One can recommend this well-written book not only to clinical psychiatrists and psychologists but also to residents in training, educators, and public officials. It does an excellent job in bridging the gap between specialists in the field and the general public.

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RENATO PICCIONE: *Manuale di Psichiatria*. Bulzoni Editor, Roma, 1995, 1067 pp., Lir 160.000.

This Italian handbook is a guide to what is best in the Italian approach to New Psychiatry. I firmly believe that it will become an international handbook. *Manuale di Psichiatria* is dedicated to Franco Basaglia, well known as the father of anti-institutional psychiatry, whose influence helped reduce commitments of mental patients to asylums.

Renato Piccione, Professor at Rome Catholic University and Chairman of Rome's NHS Psychiatric Unit, takes us through the most important aspects of psychiatric work. He believes that: (1) mental illness at this moment could be understood only in terms of biopsychosocial experience, but the psychosocial aspect is prevalent; (2) psychiatry is more related to human sciences than to natural sciences; (3) we need a unified psychiatric language and at this moment the I.C.D. 10 is better than any other; (4) The Mental Health Department (Dipartimento di salute mentale) is the most important venue for psychiatric research; (5) the mental health service is an integral part of the National Health Service, particularly in regard to technical and scientific matters.

The book is divided into three parts. It contains clear and useful flow charts. The first part deals with epistemological, cultural, historical, and legal aspects from the time of the mental asylums to the present-day Mental Health Department, and includes some elements of the history of psychiatry in Europe from ancient Greece to the present.

The second part covers the clinical aspects of mental illness. Many interesting clinical cases, presented from the point of view of the New Psychiatry, add a lively personal touch to the descriptions.

The third part is the core of the book. It describes the psychiatric work as a global strategy within the catchment area. A multidisciplinary global strategy, focussing on the "Personal Project" adheres to the following: (1) No selection of patients; (2) therapeutic continuity, from a low level to a more advanced level, until

the goal of the project is realized; (3) contract with the patient, that helps the patient to feel safe, protected, and secure.

Chapters 9 and 10 provide excellent descriptions of how a project is carried out by the multidisciplinary team from the initial assessment to specific plans, and which objectives, tools, psychotherapies (including drama therapy) will be called upon during the project. The aim is to transform the patient's intrapsychic life and relationships, which will reduce mental pain and help him/her cope with life's demands.

A lot of exciting clinical cases illustrate the concepts that Piccione and his team describe. The reader can understand how the team works, how the social network cooperates, and how people can help others who are suffering from mental pain. The book offers many additional ideas regarding prevention or rehabilitation that are worthwhile considering.

Unfortunately the handbook has not yet been translated from the Italian, which limits its accessibility for professionals in other countries, who would find it of considerable interest. It could contribute to a useful scientific and political debate on public mental health.

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