

realized in this book, however. Not much has been added to our current understanding of such different kinds of support as instrumental and emotional, the importance of the way people receive and interpret support, issues of reciprocity and prosocial behavior, and the way support conveys a sense of being valued and connected. Of interest, however, is the questioning of social density as a measure of social support. The authors rightly point out that some people in one's social structure can have negative effects rather than supportive ones.

The melding of social support constructs into the field of family studies is an exciting idea. The quality of family life might be best characterized in terms of the frequency and kinds of supportive interactions

that take place. At present we have a dearth of useful ways to view the health of families, and little effective language to describe what we see. However, to be truly useful, the social support construct needs to undergo considerable development, for we still know too little about "what is supportive about social support."

Professionals looking for immediate help in their work of supporting individuals with psychiatric disabilities and their caregiving families will find little hands-on help in this volume. However, those who are searching for ways to understand and strengthen the concept of social support may find help if they are willing to spend the time mining this rather hefty volume for relevant ideas.

The Spectrum of Factitious Disorders

edited by Marc D. Feldman, M.D., and Stuart J. Eisendrath, M.D.; Washington, D.C., American Psychiatric Press, 1996, 229 pages, \$36

David G. Folks, M.D.

This book on factitious disorders is a superb addition to the clinical practice series published by American Psychiatric Press. Drs. Marc Feldman and Stuart Eisendrath have assembled a prestigious group of experts who discuss, in practical terms, current issues in diagnosis, management, and other aspects of these disorders.

The book is a comprehensive but concise monograph that is highly readable. The text begins with an excellent review of "abnormal illness behavior" and effectively addresses personal and interpersonal consequences of factitious illness as well as management issues. It covers historical and current perspectives, psychological and physical manifestations of factitious disorders, and

ethical and legal implications, with reference to recent court cases. A rather extensive review of factitious disorder by proxy is provided by several chapters.

This work uses the *DSM-IV* framework and provides scores of clinical vignettes as well as extensive case material. Tables and guidelines for diagnosis and management are included in most of the chapters. Recent court cases, legal interpretations, and ethical considerations are well developed, especially for factitious disorder by proxy.

Psychodynamic, cognitive, and behavioral explanations for etiology and pathogenesis are generously provided throughout the text. Several chapters cover clinical criteria, major citations from the literature, and ethical issues from different vantage points. Considerations for differential diagnosis, such as malingering and somatoform disorders, and comorbid or underlying syndromes are not formally addressed but re-

ceive some coverage. False allegation of factitious disorder by proxy—a problem that is increasing, perhaps fueled by media attention—might have been addressed. And a pediatrician's perspective could have strengthened the discussion of factitious disorder by proxy.

Overall, *The Spectrum of Factitious Disorders* represents the most comprehensive book to date on the subject. Psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, social workers, nurse specialists, and therapists will benefit from the book, and it is a must for clinicians who regularly encounter these problems. It will serve as a great reference for legal professionals who are involved with such cases. The bibliography, tables, and case citations provide highly useful reference material. I am certain that the book will be highly sought after and will be among the more successful of the clinical practice monographs offered by American Psychiatric Press.

Melancholia: A Disorder of Movement and Mood: A Phenomenological and Neurobiological Review

edited by Gordon Parker, M.D., Ph.D., and Dusan Hadzi-Pavlovic, M.Psychol.; New York City, Cambridge University Press, 1996, 342 pages, \$69.95

Jeffrey L. Cummings, M.D.

This book, whose editors and contributors have all been associated with the mood disorders unit of Prince Henry Hospital in Sydney, Australia, has three main purposes and is divided into three corresponding sections. The first section, consisting of four chapters, provides a comprehensive review of historical

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