

Books

Balliere's Pocket Essentials Series: Saunders' Pocket Essentials of Psychiatry

By Basant K. Puri. Series Editors: P. Kumar and M. Clark.
Pp. 137. £9.95. Sidcup, Kent: Harcourt Brace & Co Ltd.
1995. ISBN 0-7929-1877-5.

This slim, plastic covered, 'pocket' book comprises a total of 144 pages. It is written in text book form with a user-friendly indexing system.

The book has a number of special features:

- It is brief, contains core material, yet does not omit discussion on problems of definition and classification.
- It straddles both ICD IO and DSM IV classifications, using what is useful to the clinical situation in both classifications.
- It has a glossary explaining most common psychiatric terms.

There is little in this book which would not be immediately useful to the clinician or student in the South African context. The short chapter on forensic psychiatry is based on the Mental Health Act of England and Wales, but nevertheless contains much which is helpful.

This little book certainly succeeds in providing a portable pocket-sized companion to larger texts. It contains core material for quick revision, easy reference and practical management of a wide spectrum of psychiatric disorders.

It should certainly be considered by medical students, doctors in training, doctors and nurses in primary care, and students and professionals from the allied medical disciplines.

C. W. Allwood
