

reader through the simple principles to the controversial cases, and are perhaps among the few academic books that would suit a psychiatrist at any stage in their training. Either would leave you well versed in the Act, but they are not so different as to be complimentary – one would suffice on anyone's bookshelf. If the reader wants a superior and accessible Code of Practice but does not want to tackle cold, hard law, then go for *A Clinician's Brief Guide*. If on the other hand you want more understanding of how to conceptualise the provisions of the Act and inform your face-to-face clinical practice, go for *Mental Capacity Legislation*.

- 1 Department for Constitutional Affairs. *Mental Capacity Act 2005: Code of Practice*. TSO (The Stationery Office), 2007.
- 2 Jones R. *Mental Capacity Act Manual* (5th edn). Sweet & Maxwell, 2012.

Ben Spencer, ST5 ACF in general adult psychiatry, Department of Psychological Medicine, Institute of Psychiatry, Weston Education Centre, London, UK, email: benjamin.spencer@kcl.ac.uk

doi: 10.1192/pb.bp.113.043828



© 2014 The Royal College of Psychiatrists. This is an open-access article published by the Royal College of Psychiatrists and distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Geriatric Psychiatry

Mark D. Miller & LalithKumar K. Solai
Oxford University Press USA, 2013, £35.99 (pb), 368 pp.
ISBN: 9780199765782

Miller & Solai's *Geriatric Psychiatry* is part of the Pittsburgh Pocket Psychiatry series. It has the look and feel of an Oxford medical handbook – its formatting and font is identical. However, the *Oxford Specialist Handbooks in Psychiatry: Old Age Psychiatry*¹ pre-dates this text by 4 years. This raises the question of which is a better buy?

The major difference between the two books is that *Geriatric Psychiatry* is an American text and thus references US guidelines. Consequently, DSM is used throughout, replacing ICD criteria.

This is an ambitious book aspiring to cover the breadth of geriatric psychiatry in 16 chapters. It covers core topic areas but also dedicates chapters to additional aspects of old age psychiatry, for example the psychiatric management of chronic pain and substance use disorders. The detail dedicated to subject areas is inconsistent, with greater depth reserved for more esoteric topics, often at the expense of core subjects. One notable example is the 'brief behavioural treatment for insomnia' which was developed by the author of the sleep disorder chapter. More space is dedicated to this treatment than to psychosis in Alzheimer's disease, mood disorder, delirium and schizophrenia combined. Although some chapters are very brief, each includes a comprehensive further reading list and multiple-choice questions.

Several chapters are succinct, well written and relevant. The chapter on pharmacotherapy principles in ageing is particularly effective, utilising concise tables and clear key-fact boxes. The final chapter on psychosocial factors of health and quality of life is thought-provoking and interesting.

Ultimately, this is a handbook designed for an American audience. Personally, as a UK trainee I would choose to purchase the *Oxford Specialist Handbooks in Psychiatry: Old Age Psychiatry*, but *Geriatric Psychiatry* may be a useful adjunct.

- 1 Sheehan B, Karim S, Burns A. *Oxford Specialist Handbooks in Psychiatry: Old Age Psychiatry*. Oxford University Press, 2009.

Kathryn Milward is ST4 in old age psychiatry, Caludon Centre, Coventry, UK, email: kathrynmilward@doctors.org.uk

doi: 10.1192/pb.bp.113.043851



© 2014 The Royal College of Psychiatrists. This is an open-access article published by the Royal College of Psychiatrists and distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.