

atheoretical approach has not yielded the gains in understanding that were anticipated more than 30 years ago. He argues that to make sense of psychiatric disorders we need to return to basic medical diagnostic principles such as localisation and process and to combine these with other concepts such as emergence. This model will have considerable intuitive appeal to clinicians and especially to those of us who can remember life before DSM-III.

These and other important themes are covered in this book. The material is complex but is made accessible by a number of factors. A main strength here is that the contributors are all pre-eminent experts in psychiatric nosology. The quality of writing and argument is uniformly excellent and the style is engaging. Each of the fifteen chapters is preceded by a short

introduction from one of the editors and followed by an expert commentary.

Clinical care rests on the foundation of diagnosis. This book sets out to offer a comprehensive analysis of the concepts that we use to validate our diagnostic categories and succeeds admirably in this aim. It is important that clinicians are aware of the strengths and weaknesses of our diagnostic concepts. This book should be essential reading for all psychiatrists.

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