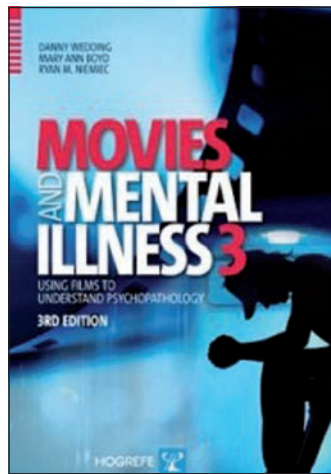


BOOK REVIEWS

Movies And Mental Illness

D Wedding, MA Boyd, RM Niemic
Hogrefe & Huber 2010
3rd Edition, pp xii + 337.
£27.90
ISBN: 978-0-88937-371-6



To the best of this reviewer's knowledge 'Movies and Mental Illness' is the only book of its kind; the forewords to its various editions setting the scene for what follows. These include the Editor of the *Journal of Clinical Psychology* pointing out that this text has entered multiple editions in tumultuous economic times; and - from John Milton's *Paradise Lost* - "strike the visual nerve for we have much to see", though predating the moving image on screen by more than 200 years, nevertheless neatly encapsulating the aim of all movie producers. Also: "As a didactic tool (this) work . . . should have a salutary effect in engaging the attention (and) . . . the affective response of the student to the vicarious identification with the film characters portrayed. . . enhancing the learning process of what otherwise tends to be a rather tedious pedagogical adventure for most students" is a very American way of saying that learning psychopathologies through viewing their portrayal as a moving image goes side by side with using movies for clinical treatment - the latter being a psychotherapeutic practice dating back to the 1930s - the goal in each case being to enhance health and happiness.

The full spectrum of psychopathology is covered via the citations of over 1000 films. Anxiety Disorders, Dissociative and Somatoform Disorders, Psychological Stress and Physical Disorders, Mood, Personality and Substance Abuse Disorders are but some of the chapter headings. There is no shortage of educational pearls in the text such as the quote from the chapter on Anxiety Disorders by Howard Hughes in *The Aviator* (2004) "Sometimes I truly fear that I . . . am losing my mind. And if I did it. . . it would be like flying blind. ." - which is in turn followed by a page and a half of detailed patient evaluation. The table of personality disorders and their characteristics on p 73 includes their portrayal in classic film examples, starring Gloria Swanson and Jane Wyman for instance, and recent film examples where stars such as John Diehl, Johnny Depp and Renee Zellweger put over the message. Especially when comparing the portrayal of mental illness between two films, for example *K-Pax* and *A Beautiful Mind*, are set as a discussion question on p 135 the book reflects the authors' enthusiasm for movies as "an enjoyable and highly memorable supplementary teaching tool for abnormal psychology classes." There is a haunting reminder of Bedlam in the 18th and 19th centuries as a place of public entertainment in Akiva Goldsman's statement in the Preface that "Mental health movies are often like going to the zoo. . . you see the disease from outside in (but) if we saw the world the way the people who suffer see it , we

would understand them differently". Goldsman, the screenwriter of *A Beautiful Mind*, originally put the statement into the DVD's section entitled "Development of a Screenplay".

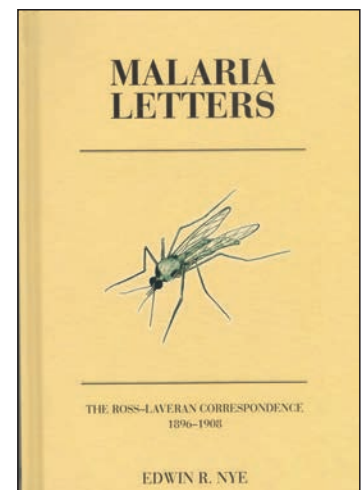
In short Movies and Mental Illness is definitely worth a place on the bookshelf of the clinician with any interest at all in this area - which is probably most of us.

Lt Col NK Cooper
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Malaria Letters. The Ross - Laveran Correspondence 1896 - 1908

E R Nye
Otago University Press 2010, 63 Pages
ISBN: 978 1 877372 66 7
Hardback £19.50

The role of the mosquito in the transmission of malaria is now a well known fact, but in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Ronald Ross and Alphonse Laveran made separate and important discoveries which led to our current understanding of the disease. This short book brings together in a single volume the correspondence between these two scientists over a 12 year period tracing Ross's discovery of the mode of transmission of the parasite between mosquitoes and birds.



The book provides brief biographies for both of these men, and sets the scene for their initial communication. Laveran's discovery of the mosquito parasite 20 years earlier was initially dismissed by Ross, before Patrick Manson convinced him to follow up Laveran's theory on his return to India. At this time Ross was a relatively unknown junior scientist to Laveran's more eminent status as a respected parasitologist. As well as detailing Ross's experimental findings, the letters also chart the evolution in their relationship from polite exchange between strangers to Laveran's later endorsement and promotion of Ross's research.

The book is aimed at anyone with an interest in medical history. Although there are other books and biographies which describe Ross's research, this book provides a fascinating insight into how Ross made his discoveries, in his own words, how he was supported by more eminent colleagues when others tried to claim his research for their own, and how he gained endorsement, through his correspondence with Laveran.

Sqn Ldr Rachel Pudney
SpR Public Health

War Surgery in Afghanistan and Iraq

SC Nessen, E Lounsbury, SP Hetz

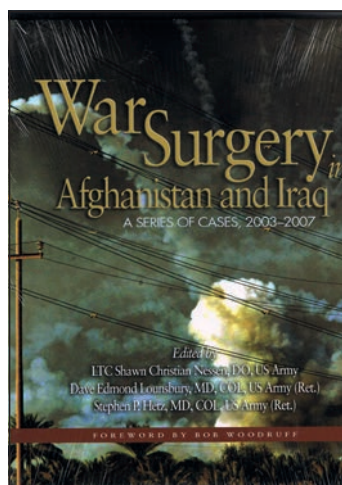
Borden Institute 2008

442 pages

ISBN : 978-0-981822-80-8

Hardback

This is a large full colour glossy textbook which on first glance looks extremely impressive; on closer perusal it remains an impressive endeavour. It uses a series of case presentations from over 50 contributors, although it is notable that only one of those is from the UK Defence Medical Services. Not only does it act as a refresher for all experienced trauma surgeons or an aide memoire to the less experienced it serves as a pictorial reminder of the campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan and the appalling injuries being endured by our servicemen.



It follows a fairly logical sequence with a prologue describing the US echelons of care and the development of their trauma system before beginning the clinical scenarios which are organised on a regional anatomical basis after six chapters of acute resuscitation and critical care.

Each clinical scenario follows a similar format with a presentation of the case followed by teaching points and clinical implications. Each scenario refers to the damage control option for that injury and finishes with a summary and a list of further reading. Each case is extremely well illustrated with full colour clinical images – there are over 450 colour illustrations in total - and line diagrams as needed.

It is a great book and the authors are to be congratulated on assembling such a huge amount of high quality clinical cases with appropriate images. It is well written by experts and the clinical advice is sound and sensible and will serve as a useful aide memoire to dip into. Because of its format however, it is not easy to sit and read from cover to cover, nor does it necessarily act well as a formal textbook: the whole of abdominopelvic and genitourinary trauma is covered in 10 scenarios – albeit 10 well written and highly relevant scenarios. The case of rectal injury advocates distal rectal washout, proximal faecal diversion and presacral drainage as mandatory parts of the management – in the individual discussed such management is appropriate - but advice that “All rectal wounds should be drained” may be viewed as too dogmatic by some.

That aside, quibbles are few and I would thoroughly recommend this to anyone with an interest in trauma surgery.

Lt Col Jeff Garner

Consultant Colorectal Surgeon

Consent to Treatment

J Lynch

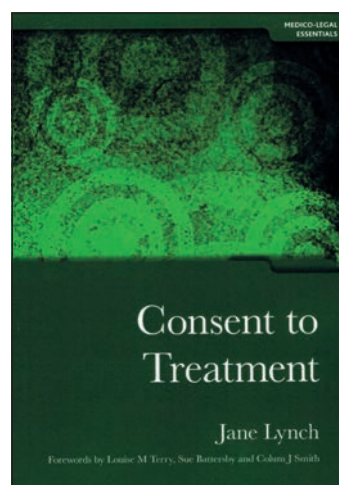
Radcliffe Publishing 2010

ix + 225 pages

ISBN 978-1-84619-224-1

Paperback £23.99

This book, in the Medico Legal essentials series from Radcliffe Publishing, explains the law surrounding consent in a very simple and straightforward way. The first two chapters contain a very basic introduction into the legal process. These introductory chapters are ideal reading for those who have no knowledge of medico legal matters. It is written in easy to understand language that those with no prior



knowledge may find helpful. As one progresses through the book it is clear that the style of writing tends to be one of single sentence statements with relatively limited analysis of those statements. Referencing in parts is good but many of the references are not specific enough for a reader to actually look them up. For example, the author in many places refers to statute law by reference to the Act in question but not the actual section. I wanted to look up one reference to the Data Protection Act 1998 which was referred to in the text, however the end of chapter reference simply stated again “Data Protection Act 1998”. This was in the context of confidentiality for the deceased, (the Data Protection Act 1998 is in fact silent around issues of the deceased and common law Access to Health Records Act 1990 applies). There are numerous other example of this style e.g. in the chapter on legal capacity the author references a document by the DH by “www.dh.gov .uk(accessed 27 July 2010)” without specifying what document she refers to.

I found the Chapter on legal capacity useful, particularly the procedures for Lasting Power of Attorney under the Mental Capacity Act 1995 although the “real life examples” were rather contrived. The index at the end of the book is well laid out enabling topics to be reached quickly. The glossary is surprising in parts as it contains definitions of “ordinary” English words for example “lawyer”. There is an over laborious use of the term ‘health professional’ in contexts where it could only mean doctor.

Overall, for those with little or no knowledge of consent this book would prove a useful text. This book would be useful for junior doctors, nurses or others with little knowledge of the law surrounding consent; it is certainly an easily accessible text. However, there is a lack of analysis to make it of much use for those aiming to extend prior knowledge.

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