

PARTICIPATION AND MEDICAL SUBJECT HEADINGS

DEAR SIR,

David Armstrong's review of the book *Participation in Health* by McEwen, Martini & Wilkins (*Journal*, March, 1984, 144, 337) finishes with poor advice. May I suggest that next time he cannot find a term in *Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)* he uses *Permuted MeSH* to trace the heading, or better still, invites his librarian or information scientist to participate. Failure to find a *MeSH* term is usually due to the inexperience of the searcher rather than the lack of suitable headings in *MeSH*.

The headings he seeks are PATIENT PARTICIPATION and CONSUMER PARTICIPATION. However, looking at the topics covered in the book, many other *MeSH* headings are also relevant. A MEDLINE search on PATIENT PARTICIPATION, available from 1978, provided 721 citations. CONSUMER

PARTICIPATION, available from 1974, provided 1454 citations. Earlier citations could be found by the use of textword searching.

The delays inherent in publishing a book inevitably mean that the information it contains is rather dated. *Participation in Health* contains few citations to material published in 1980 or later years. MEDLINE is updated with new citations each month and currently has a file size of over 4,250,000 records. Over 400 citations on PATIENT PARTICIPATION are available on the 1980 files. If one wishes to keep up to date with the literature it is obvious that MEDLINE is essential. By all means open the book, but then ask MEDLINE to bring you up to date and fill in the gaps.

C. NORRIS

*The British Library,
Lending Division,
Boston Spa, Wetherby,
West Yorkshire LS23 7BQ*

Book Reviews

Treatment of the DSM-III Disorders. By WILLIAM H. REID (with sections by G. U. BALIS and J. Y. DONALDSON). New York: Brunner/Mazel. 1983. Pp 225. 25 Dollars.

This book aims to be "a concise volume which focuses solely on treatment guidelines". Diagnosis according to a heading in the DSM-III is assumed, and the book is then divided into the headings of that classification with a discussion of the methods of treatment of each one. Although psychiatrists are mentioned also, the readership is meant to be primarily house officers, other specialists and family practitioners. Thus it is a guide and not a treatise. Doses of drugs are usually not given, and interactions between drugs are rarely discussed. The technique of administering ECT is not described, nor is a full account of psychotherapy. The reader is advised to look up details, and the sections on references are impressive: they do not intrude in the text but are numerous and up to date, for example on child and adolescent psychiatry 112 references are given, the latest of which is dated in 1982.

The suggestions on treatment are usually practical, reasonably resourceful, and middle-of-the-road, with

a tendency to favour physical methods over the psychological and social. These latter are, of course, harder to describe in a guideline approach, but the author seems to favour the physical in any case. Entries for all the DSM-III headings are given, so that there is much overlap, which spoils the success of the book as a whole. Some subjects do badly: the index has no entry for phenylketonuria, hypothyroidism (or myxoedema), Down's syndrome (or mongolism), behaviour modification, Huntington's chorea, Briquet's syndrome, pregnancy, breast feeding or puerperal psychosis—and the last is scarcely mentioned in the text.

Examples: insomnia in demented patients can be treated by leaving the light on, tryptophan in tablets or high-protein foods, nocturnal sedation with antihistamines, thioridazine 25 mg, chloral or possibly benzodiazepines. Treatment planning for Major Depression occupies four pages on tricyclic drugs, ECT, a firm kind decisive milieu in hospital, psychotherapy as not usually the main measure (but a brief discussion of the claims of different forms), and maintenance treatment.

Somebody had to try this difficult format, and the