sive-Compulsive Personality and Neurosis," "Depression," "Sleep Disorders," "Alcoholism," and "Sexual Dysfunctions and Deviations," which are all topics most would consider syndromes as opposed to signs and symptoms. On the other hand, there are no chapters exclusively devoted to such prototypic symptoms as pain, dissociation, and anger. The overall result is a highly readable contribution that is not constructed by a rigid adherence to the organizational format stated in the preface.

In addition to the editors, this book has 12 contributors. Each chapter clearly presents information useful to psychiatric residents and practicing clinicians. The chapter "Normality" is a thoughtful and carefully crafted exegesis of a subject that most standard textbooks of psychiatry do not even attempt. In a scholarly and thorough fashion, the authors of this chapter review psychoanalytic concepts of normality as well as perspectives from the fields of psychology and philosophy. The chapter by Alan A. Maltez on conversion disorder is also thoughtfully developed, scholarly, and comprehensive. This chapter has an excellent review of the historical perspectives of conversion disorder that includes a lively discussion of the concept of symptoms in ancient history, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance. It also describes the French school and the ideas of Freud. Also included in this chapter is an excellent literature review of diagnostic criteria for conversion disorders that includes retrospective studies, follow-up studies, and the most recent literature in the field. This chapter, like other chapters throughout the book, makes an excellent use of tables to organize and highlight important material.

Another exceptional chapter, by Elliott B. Hammett, is entitled "Hyperventilation and Panic Attacks." A review and discussion of the published literature on hyperventilation syndrome includes such issues as genetic factors, psychological factors, and physiological correlates. The chapter also provides information helpful in diagnosing panic disorder and an up-to-date review of the treatment of this syndrome. Other excellent chapters that are devoted to signs and symptoms include specific chapters on psychoses, hallucinations, delusions, and paranoid syndromes and conditions. These may be recommended not only to psychiatric residents and practitioners but also to medical students, physicians in specialties other than psychiatry, and professionals from other disciplines such as psychologists, psychiatric social workers, and occupational therapists. They present and clarify important concepts that both novice and experienced clinicians often find difficult and confusing.

Signs and Symptoms in Psychiatry contains several delightful surprises. The chapter by James L. Nash on "Nightmares and Anxiety Dreams" is comprehensive, interesting, and informative. In addition to its usefulness to professional, the clinician might consider recommending this chapter to selected patients who suffer from these conditions. Another unexpected inclusion is the chapter on "Countertransference" by David H. Wernan. The chapter begins with "Justification" for its inclusion in a book on signs and symptoms. I wholeheartedly agree with Dr. Wernan that data which occur in the psychotherapist are highly relevant in identifying and assessing the meaning of signs and symptoms in our patients. The discussion of countertransference in this chapter is mature, workmanlike, and lucid. Directors of residency training programs in psychiatry may confidently recommend this chapter as an introduction to the concept of countertransference to residents, and it can serve as an exceptional complement to clinical supervision in all settings.

Dr. Richard Weiner's chapter "Amnesia" is also a valuable contribution. Dr. Weiner first reviews memory processes from biological, physiological, and psychological perspectives. Thereafter, he discusses organic amnesic syndromes and amnestic syndromes. The qualification of the chapter that deals with the assessment of amnesia as well as the clinical management of amnesic syndromes is concise and applicable to the clinical setting.

The principal criticisms of this book relate to flaws that result from its organizational format. For example, the chapter on depression (which, despite the statement in the preface, deals with depression as a syndrome as opposed to a symptom) is understandably sketchy and incomplete. Certainly, one cannot discuss the history, differential diagnosis, classification, epidemiology, genetics, psychodynamics, biochemistry, and pharmacotherapy of depression in fewer than 10 pages. In contrast to the majority of chapters in the book, this chapter and several others offer little new information to the experienced clinician and may raise more questions than are answered for the student.

The second criticism relates to the inevitable uneveness, inconsistency, and repetition that occur in multi-authored textbooks as compared with works written in their entirety by one or two authors. An example is the presentation of the same tables on the causes of delirium and the causes of dementia in the chapter on anxiety (pp. 50-52) as well as in the chapter on agitation and hyperactivity (pp. 191-194). These criticisms, however, are minor when taken in the context of the overall excellence and vitality of the majority of the text. In summary, Signs and Symptoms in Psychiatry is an innovative contribution recommended without qualification as an excellent review and update for experienced clinicians, as a complementary text for medical students and psychiatric residents, and as a valuable resource for mental health professionals and physicians in nonpsychiatric specialties.

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BIOSTATISTICS


Researchers in psychopathology and psychotherapy are often faced with the task of analyzing data about which they have few firmly stated hypotheses. They feel intuitively that the data have a story to tell, if only they knew how to get them to speak. This book is just the thing for conducting such exploratory searches of data. It is not oriented toward the traditional statistical inference approach, which emphasizes stating a formal hypothesis, translating that into a statistical hypothesis, and then testing whether the deviation from that statistical hypothesis is significant. Instead, the authors cheerfully jettison the heavy mathematics associated with that approach in favor of a computationally oriented way of looking at data in many different ways. The central idea is to see whether some way of looking at the data makes their internal orderliness manifest.

Methods involving graphing data are used quite often in this sort of exploratory data analysis. Using this approach, one looks at individual data points quite carefully before or instead of averaging them together to produce group statistics. The reader is constantly warned to be on the lookout for
influential or otherwise remarkable data points, whether their atypicality turns out to be due to clerical error, just a rare event, or even (one fervently hopes) an as-yet-undiscovered new organizing principle.

The book begins by telling the reader how to display data in a simple way, which is nonetheless often quite revealing, using stem-and-leaf displays. These are a very detailed kind of histogram. A number of statistical summaries of batches of data, other than the customary means and standard deviations, are then explored; for example, the median is used as the typical value of a batch of numbers. Further graphical methods for a single variable, or the relationship between a pair of variables, are explained in some depth. The authors discuss fitting lines for the relationship between two variables, emphasizing methods that are not much affected by the presence of a few outlying (even wildly outlying) values. (This sort of data analysis is often required in analyzing data from biological experiments, in which a procedural error or an unusual patient can produce a measured value very far from all the other observations. If classical methods of fitting regression lines are used, the single discrepant point can totally mislead the user.) Other techniques covered in the book that may be of somewhat less immediate use are smoothing sequences of data (which may have some application for researchers looking at phenomena like circadian rhythms), fancier methods of constructing histogram-like displays, and displaying distributions of data that are cross-classified (e.g., birthrate by month of the year).

One extremely important chapter discusses the use of a technique known as “median polish” for analyzing two-way tabulated data, instead of or in addition to the usual two-way ANOVA. In essence, these techniques amount to looking at the variation between row or column medians instead of looking at the variation between means.

One of the most useful features of this book is the provision of microcomputer BASIC programs to perform all the analyses covered. Instructions are given for how to get machine-readable copies of the programs as well; versions for IBM personal computers and Apple computers are available. The listings in the book have been very carefully written in a dialect of BASIC that should be transportable across a great many microcomputer systems; I successfully got one running on a handheld pocket computer in an hour by typing it in without any changes.

The book is clearly written and is quite readable even for those with little background in or liking for mathematics. There are many worked examples. The book is meant to be worked through as a learning tool, not left to gather dust between occasional references. The authors communicate in their examples some of the excitement of discovering novelty and hidden meaning in data that led most researchers of my acquaintance into their fields. This gives a welcome contrast to most statistics books, which leave all but aficionados bored to tears.

In summary, this is a very welcome book about ways of analyzing data that will be useful again and again to anyone with data to analyze. Those with biological data (which often do not meet the assumptions of classical statistical techniques) will find the book priceless. The mathematical level has been kept very simple in order to reach the intended audience of nonstatisticians. The microcomputer software alone is worth many times the cost of the book. I highly recommend this book to anyone who has to do analyses of small- to medium-sized (say, up to a few hundred cases) batches of data and who wants to get a really close, informative look at variables and the relationships between them.

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