

working within the voice hearers' own theories (mystical, transpersonal, meta-physical, reincarnation, parapsychological). Although passing reference is made to studies of some of the cognitive-behavioural approaches,

the rest of this section relies for its evidence base on occasional case histories.

Overall, this is an intriguing and readable book, which opens up new ways of making sense of voices. It will be of

interest to anyone working in the field. However, I would not recommend it to an inexperienced practitioner as a handbook.

Philippa Garety

miscellany

The International Society for Affective Disorders

The International Society for Affective Disorders (ISAD) is a society of scientists, from any discipline or country, who are active in the field of affective disorders research. The basic requirement to qualify for membership is authorship of articles on affective disorders that have been published in peer reviewed journals. The membership includes those working in a scientific capacity in universities, hospitals, industry and other settings. ISAD operates a policy of mutual respect for different scientific approaches to the investigation of the affective disorders, providing they remain within an evidence-based framework. Members will receive the *Journal of Affective Disorders* as part of their membership and gain access to the network of researchers through the organisation's website (<http://www.isad.soton.ac.uk>). When fully operational the site will contain an open access section for information to the public and for announcements. There is currently no conference that focuses solely on research into the affective disorders from all disciplines and brings together recent research findings on a yearly or biennial basis. The first meeting is being planned for 9–13 March 2002 in Sicily. For more

information on how to join ISAD please contact David K. Beck, Director and Administrator, The International Society for Affective Disorders, Professional Education & Training Unit, Mental Health Group, University of Southampton, Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton SO14 0YG (tel: 023 8082 5543; e-mail: isadsoton.ac.uk).

2001 Burden Research Prize

The Burden Research Prize is awarded by the Burden Trust every 3 years for outstanding research work in the field of learning disabilities. This year the prize of £1000 has been awarded to Dr Jeremy Turk, Senior Lecturer in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at St George's Hospital Medical School for his research on fragile X syndrome.

The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation Butterfield Awards for UK-Japan Medical Research

The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation was established in 1985 to further

understanding and cooperation between the peoples of Japan and the UK in the fields of culture and society. Lord Butterfield of Stechford, a former Trustee, Chairman and Patron of the Foundation, was a distinguished medical researcher, clinician and administrator. His connections with Japan were close and as a lasting commemoration of his death in July 2000, it was decided to introduce the Butterfield Awards. In principle, three awards of £5000 are offered annually, or a total annual commitment of £15 000. Proposals for continuous funding of up to £5000 per annum for a maximum of 3 years are acceptable. There are no absolute restrictions on the field of research, provided that it is one in which the UK and Japan have a mutual and beneficial interest, for example the genetic aspects of ageing; geriatric medicine; palliative care; child and adolescent mental health; or community health care. Applications can be accepted by 31 December 2001 for awards to be made in the second half of 2002. For further information regarding eligibility and other conditions for these awards, and for obtaining application forms, please contact The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, 43 North Audley Street, London W1K 6WH (tel: 020 7355 2229; fax: 020 7355 2230; e-mail: gbsfgbsf.org.uk; website: <http://www.gbsf.org.uk>).

forthcoming events

The 9th Conference of the Society of Expert Witnesses will take place on 12 October 2001 in Sheffield. The conference will look at human rights issues and the expert witness and will offer a mix of formal presentations and associated workshops. The Society of Expert Witnesses is the largest expert witness association in the UK. As an independent, non-commercial association, it provides a forum for experts from all disciplines and offers members practical support on the various aspects of providing expert services. For further information about the conference or the Society of Expert Witnesses please contact Teresa Baron, Society of Expert Witnesses, PO Box 345, Newmarket CB8 7RB (tel: 0845 702 3014).

The Institute of Mental Health Law would like to announce the following courses:

Human Rights Act – 1 year on Health, Mental Health and Community Care, which takes place on 20 November 2001, will bring together some of the leading players and will provide an examination of the cases that have been heard, a look at those in the pipeline and anticipation of further impact; **Victims: Their Status, Role and Function in Criminal Justice and Mental Health Policy**, which takes place on 21 November 2001, will look at a series of topics including compensation for victims, the right to information v. patient confidentiality and the White Paper on mental health reform; **The Human Rights Act and Mental Health Practice**, which takes place on 12 December 2001, will provide an introduction to the Human Rights Act 1998. All three courses will be held in central London and qualify for continuing professional development points. For further

information please contact The Institute of Mental Health Law, PO Box 5721, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 2YU (tel/fax: 01773 550900; e-mail: tracyofficemagic.co.uk).

The Division of Psychological Medicine at The Institute of Psychiatry would like to announce **The Second Annual Institute of Psychiatry 'Matter-to-Mind' Symposium**. This year's symposium, titled **Bipolar Affective Disorder – From Matter to Mind** will focus on bipolar affective disorder and builds on the success of last year's meeting, **Schizophrenia – 'From Matter to Mind'**. The Matter to Mind title reflects the integration of work from all disciplines in academic neuroscience focusing on areas at the cutting edge of research. Leading international psychiatrists will be presenting their current research in bipolar affective disorder. This