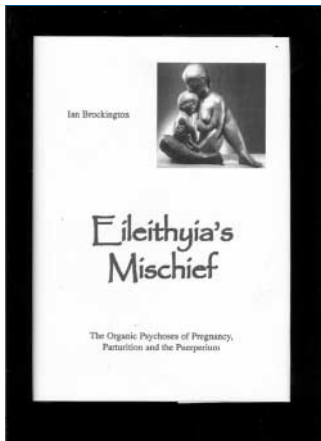


The book attempts to be fairly comprehensive, even including chapters on special issues in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. References vary from chapter to chapter and sources are not always acknowledged; in the case of Sir John Whitmore's 'GROW' model this is a shame because the original work is such a gem. Another issue with respect to comprehensiveness (despite Alistair Burns as co-editor) is its over-emphasis on working age adult (general) psychiatry as compared with old age or child and adolescent work. A little more on the major specialties would have been welcome. Minor criticisms aside, this is a useful work. I can think of no other introduction to management for psychiatrists that is so wide in its scope. Inevitably, in a multi-author book dealing with such a complex and fast-changing situation, it is patchy. Nevertheless, for the final-year trainee, the consultant new to management or the 'old hand' wanting to brush up on areas that have changed in the past few years, it is a welcome and useful 'bench-book'.

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**Eileithyia's Mischief:
The Organic Psychoses
of Pregnancy, Parturition
and the Puerperium**

By Ian Brockington. Eyr. 2006.
£100.00 (hb). 329pp.
ISBN 9780954063320

Before reading this book I had not heard of Eileithyia, divine midwife of the Greeks, never mind her mischief. This may be an indictment of the comprehensive school system but it is not just in relation to the Greek Gods that it provides an important education.

Professor Brockington takes as his subject a group of conditions that, although now rare in the West, represent a major source of morbidity in many parts of the world – the organic psychoses of pregnancy and childbirth. His dedication is to those mothers in Africa, Asia, South and Central America and the Middle East who still suffer from these forgotten diseases.

It is a limited edition of just 100 copies, beautifully hand-bound, self-published and, to borrow a phrase from the lager advert, 'reassuringly expensive'. It is unlikely, therefore, to be a book you will read or even stumble across in your medical bookshop or library. This, I believe, is a shame, as despite the specialised subject area and weight of scholarship it is a surprisingly good read. In addition to chapters considering expected conditions such as infective and eclamptic psychoses, within its covers are fascinating accounts of women with the unusual and sometimes bizarre – unconscious labour, parturient rage and even delivery after death (*Sarggeburt* – coffin birth).

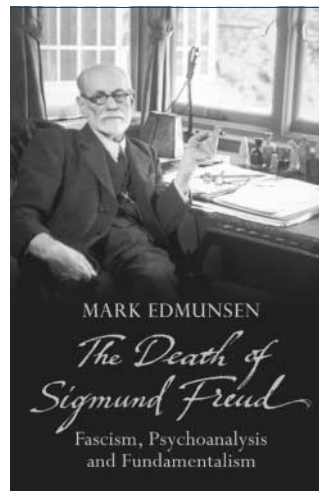
What is most impressive about this book is the depth of research. The author visited 20 countries across 4 continents to consult literature from the past 300 years. On a number of occasions he was the first to cut the pages of important historical publications – one example from 250 years ago. This approach to scholarship has become unusual in the age of internet searches and online publication. It serves as a reminder that 'the literature' is more than what has been published in English in the past dozen years, and of what can still be learnt from carefully documented clinical observations, whenever published.

A vital message is the large number of causes of unusual symptoms or behaviour occurring in relation to childbirth, and the importance of not automatically labelling them as psychological or psychiatric. This lesson is particularly true for those with a psychiatric history and is reinforced by the confidential enquiries into maternal deaths that described a number of deaths where serious medical problems following labour were misdiagnosed as psychiatric problems. It reminds us that, as doctors, a primary task is to make accurate diagnoses.

The author subscribes to the view of M. Paul Bar (1904) whom he quotes in the introduction: 'puerperal mental disorders must be rigorously classified if they are to be studied effectively'. Nosological confusion has led to serious problems in perinatal psychiatry research and must be a priority for the field to address with ICD-11 and DSM-V currently under consideration. Detailed scholarship, such as that evidenced here, can only help us along that road and I look forward to the author's forthcoming book on the puerperal psychoses.

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**The Death
of Sigmund Freud:
Fascism, Psychoanalysis
and Fundamentalism**

Mark Edmunsen. Bloomsbury.
2007. 276pp. £18.99 (hb).
ISBN 9870747586074

When Freud died in September 1939 from a tremendous 20-year battle with cancer and with more than a little help from his family doctor's generous injections of morphine, Londoners were busy preparing for the bombing that would inevitably follow the recent declaration of war with Germany. It is interesting that Mark Edmunsen chooses to highlight Freud's contemporary relevance through a narrative of his death, when so many commentators and psychologists today would gladly have left him buried.

The book is divided in two, telling the story of Freud and Hitler in Vienna in 1938, and then focusing on Freud's last days in exile in London in 1939. Edmunsen's central premise, that