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Throughout this second edition, accounts of clinical practice are linked to the underlying science, and to the evidence for the efficacy of treatments. Physical and psychological treatments, including psychodynamic approaches, are covered in depth. The history of psychiatry, ethics, public health aspects, and public attitudes to psychiatry and to patients are all given due attention.

All chapters from the first edition have been completely revised and 50 new chapters added; the sections on forensic psychiatry and on psychology as a basic science have been expanded; sections on treatment combine an evidence-based approach with practical advice based on clinical experience; and among the new chapters are new entries on stigma and discrimination, and on values-based practice.

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