LECTURE NOTES ON

BASIC PSYCHIATRY

By
Dr. EL Zain Abbas Omara

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DAR ASSAKAFA
Beirut
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DAR ASSAKAFA
Beirut
To Nadir, Nazim, Anne
Tamir, Noora and Iman
With Love
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PREFACE

Psychiatry is a rapidly expanding subject and the repeated alterations and amendments in World Health Organization (W.H.O.) classification of diseases (ICD) is a witness to this fact. Psychiatrists are becoming more and more aware of their clinical contributions in the various branches of medical practice.

The aim of this introductory book is to provide a rather handy «pocket-book» to those who mostly need it - the medical students who are currently receiving more formal instructions in their clinical years than it was the case before - to the general practitioners to whom psychiatry presents «the Doctor's dilemma» and the Social workers and Psychiatric nurses and Doctors in training.

The size of the text book was not the most important consideration in writing especially in a field where controversial points of view have generally influenced the teaching of the subject. It is difficult to be comprehensive, informative and yet concise for that purpose where the primary objective is to provide some basic Psychiatric information which is urgently needed for students who want to know about Psychiatry especially those who hope to take Psychiatry as a line.

No references are given but a list of more detailed text books to which I have referred are included in the suggestions for further reading.

So, may I simply say that I owe more than what I can say to my former teacher - previously, Vice Dean of the Institute of Psychiatry, London University and currently Professor of Psychiatry, Nottingham University - Professor J.E. Cooper, whose continuous encouragement has made this dream come true. In Psychiatry it is more than enough to get the inspiration to make the attempt.