

Doctor Thébaud is a founding member of the Association of Psychiatrists in Africa and the West African College of Physicians. He has been a member or participated in the activities of various professional organizations: Liberian Medical Association, Canadian Psychiatric Association, American Psychiatric Association, International Association of Child Psychiatry and Allied Professions, International Council on Alcoholism and Addictions, International Association for Psycho-Social Rehabilitation.

• Doctor Thébaud's interest has been focused on staff training, Transcultural psychiatry, Community Psychiatry and on psychiatric services.

• He has authored articles dealing with transcultural psychiatry, staff training and psychiatric services.

François Elder Thébaud
**WEST AFRICAN
 MENTAL HEALTH
 PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE**



This book is written to serve as an aid for primary care physicians, medical students, nurses, psychologists, social workers and all those involved in the delivery of psychiatric care in West Africa. I have tried to keep the language simple, without psychiatric jargon and without theoretical speculations.

For years, native Africans, as well as expatriates, have been involved in the field of mental health in West Africa. [...] I have tried to acknowledge the work of all those who have contributed to the development of psychiatry in Africa, over the past fifty to sixty years, regardless of school of thought or language. Although psychiatry remains a branch of medicine, cultural sensitivity on the part of the worker is indispensable, both for understanding the conflicts that affect the sufferer and for delivering humane care. Therefore, I have taken into consideration the cultural environment where people live and face adversity.

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The author was born in Haiti where he studied medicine. He is a graduate of the McGill Diploma course of Psychiatry (Montreal). He has held clinical and faculty positions at the Dogliotti College of Medicine (Liberia), the Louisiana State University, the Hahneman Medical College (Philadelphia), the New York Medical College and at the State University of New York.