

interspsychic do not exist independently of each other. On these grounds he criticises drive theory for its failure to appreciate that inner reality is continually transformed by our interaction with real others in the external world. He likewise accuses development arrest theories of underestimating the way in which inner reality determines one's perception of and reaction to external objects. His book leads to the conclusion that there is a third alternative – the relational–conflict model, in which the interpersonal and the intrapsychic are understood to “create, interpenetrate, and transform each other”.

The book is scholarly and informative, but yet it is readable, and enjoyably so. Mitchell does a wonderful job in bringing together the relational concepts embedded in the work of Bowlby, Klein, Winnicott, Fairbairn, Kohut, and others. Brought together in this way, the case against Freud's drive theory seems impressively self-evident. For Freud, object relations provide the means by which instincts can be satisfied. For the relational theorists, the exact opposite is the case: sexuality provides the medium in which relationship with others can develop. Psychopathology is not a covert way of obtaining forbidden gratification but a learnt way of searching for and maintaining connectedness with others.

In his final chapter Mitchell examines the therapeutic relationship and the process of change. He lays to rest, or tries to, the classical conception of the analyst as a blank screen onto whom the patient transfers his past experiences. From an interactional standpoint the therapeutic relationship always involves two people, and both of them have an unconscious. In drive theory, transference was regarded as a manifestation of the past. In the new paradigm, figure and ground have been reversed, and accounts of the past are now regarded as communications, either conscious or unconscious, about the therapeutic relationship. This has far-reaching effects on technique; in particular, countertransference and the patient's perception of it take centre stage.

This is an excellent book which brings together the relational concepts that now characterise psychotherapy. This is the leading edge of psychoanalysis, and Mitchell's work certainly helps it to advance.

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Counselling in HIV infection and AIDS. Edited by JOHN GREEN and ALANA McREAMER. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1989. 331 pp. £12.95.

The flourishing literature on HIV infection and AIDS is perhaps a reflection of the public anxiety and private fears that the subject awakens. The fast pace of new discoveries in this rapidly advancing field, however, makes most publications often out of date by the time

they are published. On the other hand, the pressure to produce new information often leads to publishing despite poor scientific content.

New terms have been created and old ones adapted to describe the complexities of a disease with so many ramifications, often obscuring their meaning. In this context, this book tries, in a direct and readable fashion, to guide the ‘uninitiated’ medical and non-medical reader through the maze of psychological issues likely to be encountered when dealing with people with HIV infection and disease.

After the first two chapters, in which basic epidemiological and biological facts are dealt with clearly, the book gives a comprehensive account of areas to be covered in counselling people before and after an HIV test, people with AIDS, and their partners. A particularly interesting and useful chapter follows, giving practical insight in helping people with HIV encephalopathy.

The section on haemophiliacs, drug users, children, and pregnancy widens the scope of the book outside its main emphasis on gay men. Suggestions are given on how to deal with more specific psychological problems likely to occur, such as anxiety and depression, as well as the inevitable emotional toll of facing death and dying.

The last few chapters outline interesting areas such as community care, legal and ethical aspects, the role of voluntary organisations, and the problems of counselling in the developing countries.

The book is easily readable, and draws its strength from the considerable practical experience of its authors and editors. It is written with the uninitiated and mostly non-medically (and certainly non-psychiatrically) trained in mind. The term ‘counselling’ has been given such prominence in the HIV literature that one is often led to believe that a magical meaning has been attached to it, and this book attempts to place it in context by offering an understanding of the practical aspects of counselling in its broader sense. It unfortunately fails to draw attention to its limitations, in terms of both the need for supervision of the counsellor, and the highlighting of in what instances more specialised help may be needed.

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Through the Night: Helping Parents and Sleepless Infants. By DILYS DAWES. London: Free Association Press. 1989. 274 pp. £12.95 (pb), £27.50 (hb).

Since most recent popular books on sleep problems in young children have been written from a behaviourist viewpoint, this contribution from the Principal Child Psychotherapist in the Tavistock Clinic in London is an interesting and welcome addition to the literature.