

rarely reach. He has continued his interesting scientific publications with this collection of essays which, perhaps broadly, fall under the rubric of neurophilosophy. The contributors are philosophers, neurologists, psychiatrists, psychologists and neuroscientists, a number of whom have already made substantial contributions to the expanding discipline of neurophilosophy.

The first few chapters consider perception, Critchley's own chapter covering perceptual disturbances such as synaesthesia. These are followed by chapters on consciousness. Central here is John Smythies' contribution clarifying the distinctions between theories of direct realism and those of representationalism, and bringing forward his own solution to the Cartesian dilemma which is based on a fuller understanding of distinctions between phenomenological space and physical space. There are chapters devoted more exclusively to philosophy, and then a pot-pourri of neuropsychiatric topics are covered, including hallucinations, delusions, hysteria, body image disturbances, and memory and language problems.

Although not all 429 pages of the text will interest every reader, this is certainly a good bedside book, and also one for the shelves for those important and often elusive references that those interested in the boundaries of neurology and psychiatry sometimes need.

It is a pleasure to find a book such as this, priced under £30, which has been so nicely produced.

MICHAEL R. TRIMBLE, *University Department of Clinical Neurology, National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Institute of Neurology, London*

**Helping Bereaved Children – A Handbook for Practitioners.** Edited by NANCY BOYD WEBB. New York: Guilford Press. 1993. 304 pp. £19.95 (hb).

There are a growing number of publications and books on grief and bereavement, and these areas are becoming subject to increasing research. Helping bereaved children requires special consideration. This book, edited by a professor of social work at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service, Tarrytown, New York, is written (according to the editor) for two groups of professionals – those trained in mental health fields, and those trained in counselling.

The first part of the book considers the theoretical framework of understanding a child's views of death, and assessment principles. The second part looks at some of the different types of death which may occur in families (such as the suicidal death of mother, accidental sibling death, or terminal illness and death of a father). The third part of the book deals with death in the school and community (such

as the sudden death of a teacher, or the traumatic death of a friend). In general, useful advice and guidelines are stated, and the publisher has helpfully granted permission for purchasers of the book to reproduce handouts and forms from the book. At the end of each chapter are discussion questions and a reference list. An appendix is provided at the end of the book.

However, I have a number of reservations about the book. There are a large number of case vignettes described, taking up almost half of the book. I believe that there are too many, and that they are excessively long and detailed. Individual sessions are frequently described in detail, with the content of sessions and the therapist's analysis and feelings recorded. I did not always find them to be helpful. Most of the references given are from the US, and the training programmes and resources listed are all in the US. These reduce the helpfulness of this book to professionals elsewhere. In addition, there are occasional spelling and grammatical errors.

Overall, while the book is to be welcomed for the guidance and encouragement it gives to those helping bereaved children, I was disappointed. It is perhaps more likely to be of use to counsellors than to other mental health professionals. It may be useful as part of a departmental library, but I cannot recommend it unreservedly.

MARTIN NEWMAN, *Psychological Trauma Unit, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Royal Free Hospital, London*

**Patients as Victims: Sexual Abuse in Psychotherapy and Counselling.** By DEREK JEHU. Chichester: Wiley. 1994. 241 pp. £17.95 (pb).

This is an important topic in mental health care, and one which has been too long neglected. There is no way of knowing how commonly abuse of patients by therapists occurs, and most of the studies (well reviewed in this book) suggest that the numbers are probably (thankfully) fairly small. However, the numerical size of a problem has never been an indicator of its seriousness, and this type of problem is serious – not only because of the harm that is done to the patients, but also because of the wrong that is done to them and the whole profession. It is also a problem which professionals are very unwilling to acknowledge, even though in principle they think it wrong. Although ethically mandated to report abusive colleagues, it appears that very few professionals do. Jehu's book is therefore timely, especially for medical educationalists. The review of US literature is useful, and the results of the UK study of psychologists fascinating (will there be a similar study of UK psychiatrists/psychotherapists?).

Nevertheless, the whole discussion of how such abuse comes about seemed unsatisfactory. For example, the book suggests that abusing therapists are like "other sex offenders", and recommendations for treatment are made on this basis. But sex offenders are a heterogeneous group, and what makes such different men offend is still very unclear. Even less is known about the psychopathology of abusive therapists. Accepting this, it seems rash (not to say wrong) to be advancing such specific treatment recommendations. The focus on sex offenders also minimises the role of abusive female therapists.

The approach to treatment of victims is similarly simplistic. Most people who are abused by their therapists are distressed people who were abused in childhood. The treatment for the effects of abuse (both past and present) needs to be focused on the abusive relationship. Simple cognitive-behavioural models are not always helpful, especially without an understanding of the dynamics of healthcare relationships.

I found this book completely maddening. Nevertheless, because the topic is so important, one would advise everyone to read this book, especially trainees. The sections on epidemiology and regulation are particularly well done. On the other hand, the treatment of the issues is so superficial that it is hard to recommend. I work as a volunteer with people who have been abused by their therapists. Their stories are tragic, their responses complex, thoughtful and terribly, terribly sad. They lost many things, but especially they lost the treatment that they needed and trusted to help them. This book does not convey their histories in any comprehensive sense, and does not give a proper account of their needs.

GWEN ADSHEAD, *Institute of Psychiatry,  
De Crespigny Park, London*

**Genetic Studies in Affective Disorders: Overview of Basic Methods, Current Directions, and Critical Research Issues.** Edited by DEMITRI F. PAPOLOS and HERBERT M. LACHMAN. Chichester: John Wiley. 1994. 236 pp. £32.95 (hb).

This is the eighth in a series of publications from the Department of Psychiatry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, aimed at bringing together important developments in topical areas of psychiatry. All but one of the contributing authors are based in the US. This is a book of two halves, all the topics mentioned in the title being dealt with in Part I. Parts II and III are then devoted to some clinical aspects of genetic studies, and neurobiological investigations.

The chapters comprising Part I are of mixed quality. Highlights for me include a well-structured account of the epidemiological evidence for a genetic contribution

to affective disorders, a discussion of some pertinent problems of diagnosis in genetic research, and a readable history of the Amish Study. However, to call this book an overview and to give broad titles to certain of its chapters is inaccurate. It is better viewed as a collection of focused topics. There is at times unnecessary repetition of information, but more serious are the gaps left between the areas of focus. For example, it is worrying that a book on genetics does not cite association studies in its index and barely mentions them in its text.

The overriding focus of attention is linkage analysis by the lod score method. Two chapters give background information relevant to this technique, but unfortunately they have not been placed together, and examples of lod score results are given before the technique is explained. The chapter on recombinant DNA technology begins in a user-friendly style, but soon descends into a quagmire of jargon, too often undefined, which is likely to leave the general reader lost or asleep. It also concentrates on restriction fragment length polymorphisms rather than the newer genetic markers based on DNA repeat sequences. The chapter more directly concerned with explaining lod scores is clearer, and describes some of the pitfalls which follow misspecification of diagnosis of genetic parameters. It concludes that "none of these problems is insurmountable", but this assumes that a gene of major effect exists for affective disorders: if it turns out that a collection of minor genes underlies the genetic liability to these conditions, then the lod score method will be obsolete and investigators will be obliged to turn to non-parametric linkage as well as association approaches.

Part I ends with a chapter entitled "Molecular genetic studies in affective illness", which is remarkable for its brevity at only seven pages long. One page repeats the chromosome 11 findings from the Amish Study, and the remainder concentrate mainly on studies of the X-chromosome. The conclusion, that "the X-linked form of bipolar illness has now been substantiated" is misleading, since more recent studies cast considerable doubt on this assertion. Inevitably, in such a rapidly developing field, some facts will be out-of-date by the time a book is published. A more positive example is the discovery of the Huntington's disease gene since one of the chapters was written.

The equally long second half of this book is a platform for the editors and their American colleagues. Despite a lengthy justification, the account of the family psychoeducational approach to the management of affective disorders sits uneasily in a book on genetic studies, and takes up a disproportionate amount of space (24 pages). A connection is made with the following and more relevant chapter on genetic counselling. Finally, there are discussions of learned helplessness as an animal model of depression, and the effects of lithium on gene expression. Both chapters