

modality (e.g. "individual; out-patient"); problem duration; treatment length; result; follow-up; the techniques used; and the source of the report. The book concludes with a glossary of techniques, and subject, source and technique indexes.

We thus have available a ready reference to how Erickson tackled many clinical problems. The subtleties and complexities of what he did, and especially his perceptiveness when faced with a clinical problem cannot emerge in these vignettes but the 'source' items tell us where we may read the original reports.

This is a reference source for those who have read some of the Ericksonian literature and want to discover whether Erickson treated a particular type of case and, if so, how he approached it. The beginner would do better to start with Haley's *Uncommon Therapy* or Rosen's *My Voice Will Go With You* (both also published by Norton). The more experienced therapist may find this a useful reference book. Most who dip into it will view with awe the range of Erickson's work and his innovative approaches.

PHILIP BARKER, *Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Calgary, Canada*

**Adolescence and Culture.** By A. H. ESMAN. New York: Columbia University Press. 1991. 118 pp. \$29.00.

This is an erudite and challenging book, by a psychoanalyst who has given much time and thought to his subject. The book is a short one, and almost falls into the category of an extended essay. In this work, the author explores the theme of adolescence and culture in its broadest context. Dr Esman provides not only an historical overview of attitudes towards youth, from the military training of the young Spartans in Ancient Greece to the recent revolutionary activity of the Chinese students in Tiananmen Square, but also an examination of many popular theories of adolescence.

He traces the psychological changes that have resulted from industrialisation, the sexual revolution, the 1960s' political activism, AIDS, and popular culture, and challenges the notion that there can be any one "single youth culture".

I have two major concerns about the book. The first is to do with the use of case histories. As an experienced clinician, the author has the stories of many troubled young people to draw upon, and he does so in a somewhat misleading manner. The lives of one or two disturbed adolescents should not be utilised as evidence in support of general propositions concerning adolescent development.

My second concern has to do with the relationship between adolescence and culture. Dr Esman believes that young people are both the shapers of cultural change and the barometers of it. I find this a one-sided view. Surely adolescents are far more likely to be

affected by cultural change than to be the ones who bring it about? This two-way process is not fully explored.

In summary, this is an interesting book, but more of an armchair read than a student text-book.

JOHN C. COLEMAN, *Director, Trust for the Study of Adolescence, 23 New Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 1WZ*

**Adolescent Suicide: Assessment and Intervention.** By ALAN L. BERMAN and DAVID A. JOBES. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. 1991. 277 pp. \$35.00 (hb), \$17.50 (pb).

This book aims to bring the reader up to date with theory and practice of assessment, intervention, prevention (and if all this fails) 'postvention' of adolescent suicidal behaviour. The authors stated aim is to review, summarise, and integrate research-based findings and translate these into usable clinical tools. As a review and summary of the literature on adolescent suicide the book is indeed comprehensive and successful. However, the integration and clinical translation is less successful. According to the authors there is no agreed-upon standardised assessment or intervention strategy, therefore a variety of promising approaches are described from which the clinician can choose and apply those which best suit their individual style, theoretical orientation, and proclivity. That is, unlike many other books on the subject, this book does not provide the reader with a clinical assessment or intervention protocol in sufficient detail to be immediately useful.

For a specialist book on the adolescent phase of development the section on theories of 'normal' adolescent development are not adequately covered, making the book more suited to clinicians already experienced in working with adolescents. On the positive side, the book is rich in clinical examples and provides a good guide for further reading. Overall the book would be recommended for readers looking for a thorough introduction to the issues of adolescent suicide.

PAUL HARNETT, *Senior Clinical Psychologist, Psychology Department, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AF*

**Advances in Personal Relationships (Volume 2).** Edited by WARREN H. JONES and DANIEL PERLMAN. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers. 1991. 272 pp. £30.00.

This is the second volume in a series of four reporting recent psychological research on personal relationships. The editors introduce it by arguing that close personal