

gems from the treatment literature. He is successful in my view in then offering "a rational and sequential approach to making decisions about treatment". The book reflects his own eclectic style and his own admirable belief that "the treatment of alcoholics needs to be personal, professional and scientific". He is so right when he says "workers in the field of alcoholism treatment know a great deal about treatment, but often only from the perspective of their own facility, clientele and methods". There is good sense here about disulfiram, AA, the role of coercion, the importance of the first contact and the running of group therapy and counselling services for problem drinkers.

The book would have been broader if there had been suitable papers from the French or Scandinavian literature, and it does not mention early intervention. Nevertheless, I strongly recommend all alcoholism treatment centres to make a copy of this book available to their staff.

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Heroin Addiction. By GERRY V. STIMSON and EDNA OPPENHEIMER. London: Tavistock. 1982. Pp 267. £16.00.

This book is a useful contribution to the rather dismal British literature on heroin addiction. It is based on interviews and research conducted from 1969 to 1977, with 128 heroin addicts, all initially patients at London drug clinics. It follows their lives through their addiction, their attendance at clinics and afterwards. It makes a number of important points that need to be emphasized to counteract the widespread ignorance and horror associated with addicts. It describes addicts who lead normal lives and are successful in their work, e.g. as company directors, and it gives us glimpses into the minds of addicts in ways which make it easy to empathize (and sometimes to sympathize) with them. It provides a sound historical background. The changes in prescribing policy which took place in the drug clinics in the late 1970s are cogently described together with the unconvincing scientific evidence that is said to have led to these changes. The widespread and increasing criticism of clinics is described together with the reasons for it. The authors claim that the clinics no longer reach the heart of the drug scene, that they are 'acting as if they can ignore the wider setting of drug abuse' and are in fact withdrawing from the field.

The book analyzes problems but, unlike Professor Arnold Trebach's recent book *The Heroin Solution*, it makes no suggestions. Its conclusion is no more challenging than 'We seem to be facing the start of a

new balance being argued between treatment and control'. Considering that there is an acute crisis of heroin addiction, that exciting changes are taking place and that there is a real possibility that Britain could lead the world in solving it, this seems rather a feeble end to an interesting book.

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Working Men and Ganja: Marihuana Use in Rural Jamaica. By MELANIE CREAGAN DREHER. Philadelphia: Institute for the Study of Human Issues. 1982. Pp 216. \$18.50.

This book is an interesting, and at times fascinating, account of the everyday use of marihuana in three Jamaican communities which differ in respect of economic base and internal organisation. Brief mention is made of the increasing interest in marihuana use in the sixties and the consequent setting up of several large multidisciplinary studies. Dreher was involved in one of these studies and subsequently returned to Jamaica to make a more detailed study of marihuana use and marihuana-linked behaviour at the community level. She was particularly interested in the use of marihuana in working situations.

The three communities chosen for the study are compared and contrasted and a detailed account is given of the cultivation, distribution and consumption of marihuana, viewed as a social institution. In the socio-economic perspective the use of marihuana appeared to be accepted and expected (although illegal) for the lower social classes but regarded as inappropriate for the upper levels of society. Recently however there have been indications of increased use in university circles, artist groups, and certain upper class groups. This section is largely anecdotal, with several case histories.

The organisation of work in sugar production, banana and coconut groves, and copra factory is described, with a discussion of the various alleged advantages and disadvantages of marihuana in these situations.

Dreher is careful to point out that findings in one culture cannot be safely extrapolated to another, and perhaps her most confident statement is in advocating this type of broad-based cultural research rather than the more narrow study of individual users of cannabis. In this respect any attempt to formulate a "model marihuana user" may produce misleading conclusions, and miss many important aspects. She also states that her research does not support the idea of an amotivational syndrome, as has been suggested elsewhere, but rather that the use of cannabis in these communities is a participatory, pro-social and self-advancing activity.