

The chapter on clinical intervention provides an overview of current clinical techniques ranging from well-founded behavioural approaches to approaches like family therapy, play therapy and social modelling which are less easily evaluated or operationalised.

Throughout, lively case vignettes are used to illustrate problems of assessment, treatment, ethics and professional boundaries. Also included is a brief description of the more common childhood diseases.

The authors end the book with a plea for increased research in this area, establishing a more distinct and specialised approach to the clinical problems of these children, to combat the dangers inherent in making major health care decisions on the basis of biomedical and economic data alone.

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**Women Analyze Women in France, England and the United States.** By ELAINE HOFFMAN BARUCH and LUCIENNE J. SERANO. New York: Columbia University Press. 1989. 424 pp. \$27.50.

The authors state that their book grew out of their conviction that there is a "new form of psychoanalysis, a quiet revolution, an analysis that is centred on women, by women". They attempt to develop a theme of feminist psychoanalysis in a series of interviews with women analysts, some of international renown, in France, Britain and the USA.

The authors themselves come from a literary rather than a clinical background, although one of them is currently training as an analyst. This may account for what seems like an appreciation of psychoanalytic theory as a tool for intellectual debate rather than a way of trying to understand human beings and their development.

Almost half of the book is devoted to the French analysts and this presumably reflects the specific interests of the authors. In their introduction they comment on the fact that American literary criticism has been influenced by French writers. With the exception of the contributions of Joyce McDougall and Janine Chasseguet-Smirgel, this section of the book is very dense and difficult to follow unless one is familiar with the work of Lacan.

In contrast to the avant-garde French analysts, the authors then turn to well known establishment figures of British psychoanalysis. This section is much shorter, more accessible, but clearly of less interest to the authors. The subjects fail to confirm the authors' prejudices, often turning to their formidable clinical experience rather than entering into the intellectual debate prominent in the rest of the book.

The American contributions lie somewhere between the French and British ones with a mixture of establishment and more controversial figures.

I found the book disappointing. Some of the individual contributions made fascinating reading, but in their efforts to confirm their hypothesis, the authors often seem to ignore the continuing development of psychoanalytic thought and the contributions to this by both male and female analysts.

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**Treating Incest: A Multi-modal Systems Perspective.** Edited by TERRY S. TREPPER and MARY JO BARRETT. New York: The Haworth Press. 1986. 126 pp. \$22.95 (hb).

This compact book brings together different theoretical perspectives on incest, in a way which makes clear the pitfalls of unitary theoretical approaches, but at the same time highlights the difficulty or impossibility of integrating different perspectives.

Conceptual frameworks are dealt with in part one, and treatment of intra-familial sexual abuse in the second part of the book. Controversial issues about family systems versus individual perspectives, for instance, are discussed. However, with the exception of David Finkelhor's four pre-conditions model of sexual offending, there is little in the book which relates to the individual psychopathology and behavioural characteristics of the sexual offender himself. Four years post-publication, this deficit is rather striking, but should not totally detract from other interesting material of a clinical nature.

A functional typology of incest families is suggested by Larson & Maddock, characterised by affection-exchange, erotic-exchange, aggression-exchange, and rage-exchange processes, and schemata are outlined for the possible treatment of such families, depending on the extent of pathology identified. It is suggested that the less disturbed affection-exchange families might benefit from structural family therapy and supportive group therapy, whereas the deeply deviant rage-expression families may require separation (to ensure child protection) and therapeutic strategies to overcome fear and defensiveness which may be part of the family's social script.

An interesting chapter on the 'apology session' by Trepper describes a technique which has become very popular now that more professionals are willing to engage in direct treatment with sexual offenders. An incest family in treatment is videotaped and an edited transcript of the apology session is reprinted in the chapter. Several weeks of preparatory work have apparently been undertaken by the abusing father, the mother, and the various children including the victim, before confrontation in this meeting, the purpose of which is to allow the father to apologise for his incest