

the USA would not be accepted in this country; for example, that the indication for operating on the spine of a patient with a low incomplete lumbar lesion and was confused was financial pressure. The book is written in a style which makes for difficult reading, a combination of American and social workers' jargon.

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Neuropsychodiagnosis in Psychotherapy. Revised Edition. By LEONARD SMALL. New York: Brunner/Mazel. 1980. Pp 407. \$25.00.

The stated purpose of this book "is to stress that physiological and neurological processes often produce behaviors that correspond with those that arise psychogenically and can be confused with them". It is not necessarily a book about psychotherapy, as the title misleads one to believe, but rather an account of the less common expressions of CNS disturbance which produce behavioral symptoms. Thus, "soft" signs of neurological pathology are described, and conditions such as "minimal brain dysfunction", the less obvious forms of epilepsy and minor forms of aphasia receive independent chapters. Traditional psychiatric syndromes, schizophrenia and depression, are also covered and the reader's previous knowledge should enable him to place the observations in a broader psychiatric context. Small, well known from his books on brief psychotherapy, has included many clinical vignettes, mostly of children and young patients. The therapeutic approach is multidimensional: medication, re-education, social support and psychotherapies go hand in hand or are applied following the command of the clinical situations.

The book will not be useful as another weapon in the interminable squabble between the pro- and anti-psychotherapy lobbies. Instead it will be helpful to medical and lay psychotherapists willing to establish a dialogue with the neurologist, and who want to revise their knowledge of the possible organic pathology underlying some difficult patients with unclear conditions.

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Behavioural Treatment of Problem Children. A Practice Manual. By MARTIN HERBERT. London: Academic Press. 1981. Pp 226. £4.80.

Behavioural methods are increasingly being used in the treatment of psychiatrically disturbed children and adolescents. There is a refreshing emphasis on the objective measurement of behaviour and its change with therapy. There are several well-established

behavioural techniques and some generally acceptable views on how they should be employed. A good book concerned with behaviour therapy and childhood problems would be helpful so that many more of those working with disturbed young people could become more familiar with this approach.

Unfortunately, this is not such a book. Although it covers the subject after a fashion and contains some relevant information, it cannot be recommended to readers at any level of 'behavioural sophistication'. The whole presentation is confusing. It is full of extraneous material. Insufficient emphasis is given to common clinical problems where behaviour therapy has been found to be helpful. Need I go on!

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Betrayal of Innocence: Incest and its Devastation. By SUSAN FORWARD and CRAIG BUCK. London: Penguin Books. 1981. Pp 154. £1.95.

This book, which is aimed at the general public, is written by a social worker who practices what is described as intensive group psychotherapy, and a freelance journalist. The authors' aim is to bring to the notice of everyone the frequency, harm and secrecy surrounding incest and its social and psychological consequences, the severity of which they feel are under-estimated and generally denied because of the emotional unacceptability of the incestuous act. Susan Forward, who specialises in the psychological treatment of victims of incest, starts the book by confessing that she herself was the victim of such a problem and that the successful treatment of her difficulties by psychotherapy persuaded her to devote herself to the relief of fellow sufferers. Although there can be no doubt that the frequency and consequences of incest are largely unknown and more serious than the paucity of published data taken on its own would lead one to suppose, nevertheless, this work cannot be taken as a serious contribution to the subject.

It suffers from all the poverty of preconception, is persuasive and there is no real attempt to assess critically the social or psychological significance of what is supposedly being studied. The approach to psychotherapy is naive and proselytizing and the glimpses one obtains of her technique suggests that it is largely based upon the approach of confession being good for the soul. It becomes clear that it would be impossible for her to disentangle the effects of incestuous experience from either other forms of parental abuse or the complex workings of internal fantasy, all of which in the psychotherapy of such patients require detailed analysis and the capacity to suspend judgment on causality until the treatment is