

homicide from a single perspective often become predictable and tiresome once the message has been put. Sadly, this one is no exception.

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Child Psychotherapy, War and the Normal Child: Selected Papers of Margaret Lowenfeld. Edited by CATHY URWIN and JOHN HOOD-WILLIAMS. London: Free Association Books. 1988. 405 pp. £30.00.

This timely publication is divided into two parts. The first is a scholarly account and critique of Lowenfeld's work within the history of 20th century developmental psychology, the child guidance movement, and psychoanalysis. Her life and experiences are set into intellectual context and presented as an explanation for the course that her thinking took. In the process, Urwin has illuminated and enriched our understanding of both.

Part II arranges the selected papers in chronological order, and into chapters by topic. An introduction to each chapter sets the papers in the overall framework of her life and work, and discusses the contemporary relevance of her ideas. The papers span 40 years of Lowenfeld's life (1890–1973), and reflect the mind of someone with wide-ranging life experiences. Lowenfeld began her professional life as a paediatrician with an interest in research, and ended it as one of the pioneers of child psychotherapy and a founder Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatry. It is clear from these papers, however, that she never deviated from the belief in the importance of attending to the whole child; the physical, intellectual, and emotional status of a child must be looked at together and in the context of family ethos and culture.

The Children's Clinic, set up in 1928 and eventually renamed the Institute of Child Psychology, was her attempt to realise the aim to bring to the aid of the suffering child all knowledge which might have a bearing on his or her well-being. For those professionals who are interested in closer links between paediatrics and psychiatry, these papers may give fresh insight as well as impetus to provide a holistic approach to children's disease and suffering.

Fundamental to any treatment given to children is the language of communication used by the child and the physician. Lowenfeld's paediatric background shows in her emphasis on seeing things from the child's point of view. This, coupled with her genius for invention, led her to develop communication tools for the child to use. Of particular interest is the world technique, which serves to demonstrate how physiology and emotion are bound up with cognitive processes and what the entire process might look like. For those professionals who wish to complement their psychodynamic understanding, or those who would like to try an alternative approach to

their understanding of children, Lowenfeld's techniques and ideas will offer a worthy challenge.

Through the use of her non-verbal techniques, Lowenfeld developed certain ideas about children's thinking which she called 'protosystem thinking'. Unlike Freud's primary process, Lowenfeld's view was that this thinking operates multidimensionally within the totality and simultaneity of experience; although it has its own logic and laws, the conclusions are subjective and therefore idiosyncratic. This and other theoretical concepts were no more than working hypotheses. Given the need for fresh thinking in this area, it is to be hoped that the drawing together of Lowenfeld's insights in this publication will stimulate a revival of interest in her very original ideas.

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Psychobiology and Psychopharmacology. Edited by FREDERICK FLACH. New York: Norton. 1988. 286 pp. £19.95.

This is the second in the 'Directions in Psychiatry' monograph series, which means that it consists of a collection of articles, in this case on psychobiological and pharmacological topics derived from presentations by 22 American authors to a continuing education programme of that name in the USA. The back cover claims, perhaps a little too immodestly, that the series offers "an essential body of knowledge for every professional involved in mental health care".

Certainly this volume could not be accused of simply presenting psychobiological research without an attempt to put such findings into a general psychiatric context. The introduction laments the polarisation produced by blinkered adherence by psychiatrists to one or other model of psychiatric disorder, and the early chapters on psychological and social aspects of psychopharmacological treatment, compliance problems, sexual side-effects of drugs, and combining pharmacotherapy and psychotherapy positively bend over backwards to allow a 'biopsychosocial' approach. Much of the content of these sections appears to derive from the clinical experience of the authors rather than empirical evidence, which may be an approach that is enjoyed by some readers. The remaining sections are the more expected reviews of a variety of psychobiological topics, ranging from updates on electroencephalography and scanning techniques, and on genetic research, to aspects of antidepressant and antipsychotic drug treatment, largely clinical chapters on the treatment of anxiety and the management of overdosage, and a final chapter describing the editor's own studies of visual defects in psychiatric patients.