

have been more valuable to concentrate on a smaller number of countries where better information was available and where there was reason to believe that the control of alcohol is dealt with in contrasting ways. In a final chapter there is an interesting attempt to construct what the authors freely admit is a rudimentary scale of alcohol control policy based on the extent to which different countries control production and distribution, attempt prevention, are severe about drinking and driving, and use taxation on beverages which is regularly adjusted. The UK ranks fourth on this scale behind Norway, Sweden and Poland pre December 1981, with Luxembourg, Italy and Israel emerging as the most permissive. Correlations between this scale and alcohol consumption and cirrhosis mortality are imperfect particularly since Israel has the lowest consumption and one of the lowest cirrhosis death rates.

Both of these books are probably for specialists, but others would do well to ponder whether this marriage between the social sciences and psychopathology is peculiar to alcohol?

JIM ORFORD, *Senior Lecturer in Clinical Psychology, University of Exeter*

Thicker than Water? Adoption: Its Loyalties, Pitfalls and Joys. By ALICE HEIM. London: Secker and Warburg. 1983. Pp 211. £5.50.

This book is written by a psychologist who adopted two children, and is now a grandmother. It falls into two parts. The first part recounts the experience of adoption from the viewpoint of adoptive parents and children. This material was collected by sending open-ended questionnaires to all the adoptive parents and children that the author and her friends had heard of, from this decidedly unrepresentative sample there was a 50 per cent response rate. The book thus has no pretensions to being a scientific empirical study, nor does it discuss the literature on adoption or the issues currently being debated. The second, quite separate, part of the book offers advice on various aspects of childbearing—toilet training, tantrums etc. Again, it is written without a scientific basis or awareness of current thinking, and has a curiously old-fashioned 'grandmotherly' tone. The book may interest adoptive parents who seek reassurance from first hand accounts of other's experiences.

BARBARA TIZARD, *Director, Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London*

New Editions

Drugs and Therapy: A Handbook of Psychotropic Drugs. 2nd edition. By ALVIN K. SWONGER and LARRY L. CONSTANTINE. Boston: Little, Brown. 1983. Pp 431. \$20.00.

This second edition, a substantial volume, places an up-to-date account of drugs important to psychiatry against a background of the processes of psychological health and disorder.

Additions include, among others, the approach to sleep disorders, mechanisms and treatment of pain, the interaction of alcohol with drugs, psychological theories of schizophrenia and depression, and a neurophysiological model of consciousness. The discussion of drugs useful in dementia, epilepsy and extrapyramidal disorders, and the sections on marijuana and phencyclidine have been enlarged.

At times, the style is almost conversational, a noticeable asset which in no way detracts from the precision required in this field. A strong feature is the particularly helpful bridge between chemistry and

psychodynamic therapies, worthy to be treasured by eclectic therapists and used in teaching about this elusive interface.

JOHN POLLITT, *Medical Director, Hayes Grove Priory Hospital*

Clinical Pharmacology of Psychotherapeutic Drugs. 2nd edition. By LEO E. HOLLISTER. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone. 1983. Pp 214. £22.00.

Professor Hollister of Stamford University, California, writes well and with a vigorous and, at times, a witty style. After a general introduction, the remaining five chapters deal with the main groups of psychotropic drugs. They begin with a useful history and then give a quite lengthy account of clinical conditions. Psychopharmacology is covered to a varying degree but it is always clearly presented. Clinical indications for the use of drugs are patchy, with some sections more