

objective of which was to evaluate and learn from the link between research and policy in this field. The coverage is wide, ranging from classification, screening, and treatment differences on the one hand to professional team roles and patterns of collaboration on the other. In addition, there are a number of short contributions based on experience and aspirations in other countries which, by and large, fail to relate relevant insights to the English scene. It is, however, the omissions that stand out. There is an absence of any substantial discussion of primary prevention in this apparently ideal setting, perhaps emphasising how little of practical value is known about the aetiology of psychiatric conditions. Balint, too, is mentioned but once in passing, and interviewing skills hardly at all.

Given the primary care setting, the book adopts a prior assumption of the medical model and deviates little from this. Much emphasis is given to the team approach, but little empirical evidence is presented on what is actually done by whom and, in particular, the precise skills exhibited by the various professionals. This is epitomised by the fact that one contributor asserts that the most important aspect is that a person is on the spot at the right time. Indeed, in the book there is debate about whether collaboration within or between teams depends essentially on personalities, the discriminating characteristics of which are not identified. Except when considering drug treatment effectiveness, this book does not help to differentiate the specific from non-specific factors in this field.

D. P. FORSTER, *Senior Lecturer in Community Medicine, University of Newcastle upon Tyne*

Parental Influences: In Health and Disease. Edited by JAMES E. ANTHONY and GEORGE H. POLLOCK. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone. 1986. 531 pp. £25.70.

This book, edited by two distinguished psychoanalysts, consists of a series of psychoanalytically-orientated papers on the clinical aspects of ordinary and disturbed parenting. Topics include cross-generational influences, the parental experience, pathological parenting, and specific situations such as violence and psychosomatic disease. Much reference is made throughout to the works of Anna Freud, Winnicott, and Therese Benedek. It has the usual strengths and weaknesses of psychoanalytic writings – vivid and detailed case descriptions, but a turgid and often incomprehensible style of writing with an irritating lack of objectivity and criticism. This latter is particularly notable in the chapter by Sackin, ironically entitled “The parents of children with psychosomatic diseases: a critical review of the literature”. Sackin criticises authors who espouse ideas with which he disagrees for reaching conclusions not adequately supported by their data. In contrast, he quotes in

support of his arguments scores of authors, most of whom are subject to the same criticism, but the criticism is not forthcoming.

The psychoanalytically inclined will enjoy this book. With the exception of Wallerstein's excellent chapter on divorce, the rest of us would do well to look elsewhere if we are to learn more about parenting. Are we still expected to take seriously such statements as “the reason why such mothers (post-partum psychosis) are unable to recathet the baby after birth is because they are narcissistic and too fearful that ‘a declaration of ownership of the baby’ as a stolen penis would draw the anger and retaliation of those who regarded it as their own”?

BRYAN LASK, *Consultant Psychiatrist, The Hospitals for Sick Children, London*

The Adolescent in Group and Family Therapy (2nd edn).

Edited by MAX SUGAR. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1975, 1986. 298 pp. £12.50.

This edition is a reprint, some ten years on, of the first, with an additional chapter by the editor on transference in adolescent group psychotherapy.

Each chapter describes a way of handling problems presented by adolescents according to the experience of the authors, whose expertise lies primarily within a psychoanalytical framework. The problems whose therapy is discussed range from those that present as personal problems to those seen as community based – e.g. school or ghetto problems – or related to membership of a problem family or to drug addiction.

For those to whom this book is unfamiliar, it contains timeless information about the adolescent process and the tasks of adolescence, which are presented, for the most part, in the form of clear descriptions of adolescent behaviour. Although the observations are usually presented from a psychoanalytical perspective, they are generally written in a way that would interest and inform those who do not embrace a psychoanalytical approach. The book can be recommended, provided it is read in the knowledge that the principles underlying both group and family therapy are subject to developmental change.

DOROTHY H. HEARD, *Consultant Psychotherapist, University of Leeds*

Till Death Do Us Part: How Couples Stay Together. By

JEANETTE C. LAUER and ROBERT H. LAUER. New York: The Haworth Press. 1987. 192 pp. \$24.95.

This book is based on questionnaire surveys of 351 marriages, some fulfilling, others not. The authors concentrate on what constitutes a successful marriage, and examine aspects such as commitment, individuality