

The range of detailed case studies is impressively rich and diverse and would provide excellent teaching material. There is a sensitive and sympathetic chapter on working with abusing parents, with much thought given to the difficulties of initial contact. The book is written within the framework of an informed, critical, but largely positive understanding of the Children Act. There is a serviceable index and a useful bibliography.

The text does not sparkle, but it offers nevertheless a rich seam of valuable ideas for anyone involved in the training of child-care professionals at all levels.

**BERNADETTE WREN**, *Principal Clinical Psychologist, Hospitals for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London*

**Shame, Exposure and Privacy.** By CARL D. SCHNEIDER. London: W. W. Norton. 1993. 180 pp. £13.95.

This book evolved out of a doctoral thesis, and was first published in 1977, but had only a limited circulation. Written as an argument against the public shamelessness of the 1970s, this edition feels somewhat of an anachronism in the secretive and privatising 1990s.

Dr Schneider is calling for a rehabilitation of the concept of shame, and arguing for the importance of privacy. He writes from an "anthropological-philosophical" point of view, quoting heavily from Nietzsche and Sartre, but is also heavily influenced by his religious perspective as an ordained minister and pastoral counsellor.

The early chapters describe shame as a uniquely human emotion, though in making this distinction between 'man' and 'animals' he fails to cite any ethological source later than Darwin. Schneider also discusses the linguistic roots of the concept shame, but by the end of the book I felt that the concept had been made so broad that the word began to lose its meaning. Embarrassment, respect, remorse and modesty were all under one umbrella. Though an attempt had been made to divide shame into 'false shame' and a, presumably, 'real' version, this was not pursued in later chapters.

I felt unsure as to whom the book was aimed. Though written by a psychotherapist, I found it had only a tangential relationship to psychotherapy. In integrating ideas from theology, philosophy and anthropology, he has created a sourcebook on 'shame' which is useful though not comprehensive. Observations from ethology, sociology and psychology would have completed the picture.

With such a narrow focus I could hardly recommend this book to the hard-pressed administrator of a departmental library, but it would certainly make an intriguing gift to a colleague with a philosophical bent.

**TERRI EYNON**, *Registrar, Queen Elizabeth Psychiatric Hospital, Edgbaston, Birmingham*

**Psychological and Psychiatric Problems in Men.** By JOAN GOMEZ. London: Routledge. 1993. 131 pp. £12.99.

One could easily feel comfortable with the first three scene-setting chapters of Dr Gomez's book, but in the fourth there appeared a pattern which was to follow: a succession of quick-fire lists on a range of disorders, one or two of which did not actually affect men.

It should be said in the book's defence that it does not aim at psychiatrists but at social workers, welfare officers, and other health care professionals, yet I wonder how such a format might be helpful to them. Dr Gomez's main difficulty is the subject she has set herself. Judging from the extensive bibliography, Dr Gomez has laboured hard to produce these 131 pages packed with information. Yet the persistent theme that men are more aggressive than women, and demonstrate more anti-social behaviour, repeated through the range of psychiatric disorders, results in a textbook of psychiatry so abbreviated that it can be of little use. A seven-line paragraph on emotional disorders of childhood is inevitably a travesty. To attempt to cover everything from genetics to geriatrics, from soiling to schizophrenia, such a book needs to be a collaborative effort.

I found the text sometimes muddling; snippets of information appear out of context leaving the reader to judge the relevance of the information to the heading under which they are found. I was unhappy with the lack of clarity about the origins of the information or views put forward. Although there is a considerable bibliography, there were very few attributions in the text to let you know from where the view expressed was derived. It would have been more helpful to its readership if the text had directly referred to the source material from which the views were derived.

**GEORGE J. LODGE**, *Consultant Psychiatrist, Roundway Hospital, Devizes, Wiltshire*

**On Kissing, Tickling and Being Bored.** By ADAM PHILLIPS. London: Faber and Faber. 1993. 143 pp. £14.99.

Sigmund Freud described psychoanalysis as the "talking cure", and it can be conceptualised as a language which enables those who are more or less fluent to converse in a fashion that at best informs and enriches clinical work, but at worst becomes an arcane discourse incomprehensible to any but a special coterie. Unfortunately, Adam Phillips' book veers towards the latter view, and he is in danger of unconscious irony, when in the preface he quotes J. L. Austin's remark, "it is not enough to show how clever we are by showing how obscure everything is".

To be fair, the chapters in the book were not originally written for publication in the form of a book, but appeared as single essays in various journals, both