

about the individual's inner pain and conflicts, which contribute to and result from the breakdown of marital and family relationships. Thinking in terms of its usefulness in clinical work, therefore, I was left unsatisfied.

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Psychopathology: An Interactional Perspective. Edited by DAVID MAGNUSSON and ARNE OHMAN. Orlando, Florida: Academic. 408 pp. \$49.50

This book is, like the curate's egg, good in parts. Seligman and Nolen-Hocksma's chapter on explanatory style and depression, Leff's review on the now familiar work on the influence of life events and relatives' expressed emotion on the course of schizophrenia, and the chapter by Levander *et al* on possible links between hormone levels and patterns of male delinquency are lucidly argued and stimulating. However, the book fails to achieve its stated purpose, which is to look at some common themes in work on the interaction between the individual and his environment and to "make the implications and consequences of an interactional approach to research on psychopathology more explicit". I suspect that it suffers from the stated advantage that it was refined at a symposium convened specifically for this purpose. Similarities between quite diverse areas of research are stressed, whereas in many instances the reader becomes more aware of differences. The editors themselves say that the grouping of the chapters is not self-evident; I would go further than this and say that it is difficult to see why some chapters have been included at all.

The style of some of the chapters would stick in the throat of all but a convinced behaviourist. For example, in Lang's chapter on fear and anxiety, the concept of feeling is dismissed and emotion defined as "an action set, a disposition of the individual to emit a context-relevant response sequence". Moreover, the style of much of the prose is turgid and ponderous—phrases such as "the continuously ongoing bidirectional process of interaction between individuals and their environments" leave me cold.

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Explorations with Families: Group Analysis and Family Therapy. By ROBIN SKYNNER. Edited by JOHN SCHLAPOBERSKY. London: Methuen. 1987. 438 pp. £25.00.

When we invited Robin Skynner to give the keynote address to the 1986 AOTP Conference on Teaching

Dynamic Psychotherapy, we had no doubt that he was our first choice. The title we had in mind was "The psychotherapy teacher—getting older: narrowing down or opening out?" We were entirely confident that if there was one psychotherapist who could convey the excitement and challenge of being prepared to entertain the possibility of new ideas in the course of one's professional career, it was Dr Skynner. We were not disappointed. On the contrary, he demonstrated in vivid fashion how it was possible not only to tolerate a range of theoretical notions at the same time but also to attempt the creative task of integrating them. Fortunately the address was published in the *College Bulletin* (December 1986, 10, 341–345).

It is also fortunate that we now have the present volume. John Schlapobersky has done a handsome job of bringing together 14 important contributions by Skynner. These are conveniently grouped into sections dealing with general principles, special applications, and group-analytic family therapy. The editor's introduction, biography, and commentaries on each of the papers add to the interest, serving to make the reader even more curious about Skynner's ideas.

Having trained in group therapy originally and in more recent years turned my hand to the application of systems theory to work with families, I was especially intrigued by the evolution of Skynner's conceptions in these two modalities of psychotherapy. In a key paper entitled "What is effective in group and family therapy", he argues persuasively how it is possible for both approaches to enrich each other theoretically, with resultant practical spin-offs. The paper is a splendid example of the integrationist at work. Indeed, so are all the others in the book.

Although the material in *Explorations with Families* has been published elsewhere, and his definitive work in my view remains *One Flesh, Separate Persons*, the publication of the present volume is welcomed and will permit the reader to enter into Skynner's conceptual world readily and engagingly.

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Health Care Provision Under Financial Constraint: Need, Demand and Resources. Edited by T. B. BINNS and M. FIRTH. London: Royal Society of Medicine. 1988. 317 pp. £20.00.

America and Britain are two countries divided by more than a common language. This conference, held at the Royal Society of Medicine in December 1986, brought together 47 'distinguished people' from the USA and the UK to discuss a paradox. In his opening remarks, Christopher C. Fordham III, Chancellor of the University of North Carolina, asked participants to "reflect for a moment on the fact that in the USA, societal preoccupations