

Moreover, terms such as business planning, marketing and customer service suggest a culture which is more concerned with maximising income than with providing quality patient care. White addresses these issues and argues that principles of sound business management and responsible medical practice are more akin to each other than their different languages might suggest. Indeed it is as a vehicle for overcoming prejudicial attitudes towards the commercialisation of the NHS that the book succeeds.

Those who have accepted the challenge of a clinical directorship role will feel that the author has placed undue emphasis on such outdated concepts as Griffiths management, clinical budgeting and resource management initiatives at the expense of topics of greater contemporary relevance. For example, the contracting process, which lies at the heart of the NHS reforms, merits just a single paragraph. Thus although the title might suggest a management toolbox for aspiring clinical directors, the contents offer little of a pragmatic nature. The exception here is the outstanding chapter on change management which can be recommended to clinicians and managers alike. Family therapists in particular will relate easily to White's coverage of power politics, second-order change and resistance. Implicit in this discussion is the portrayal of the clinical director as a corporate psychotherapist intent on facilitating attitude change as an alternative role model to that of task-orientated leader.

Despite its failings, this book provides a thoughtful introduction to management issues for clinicians, particularly those who are experiencing difficulty in reconciling their professional values with the demands of the contract culture.

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How Psychiatrists Look at Ageing. Edited by G. H. POLLOCK. Madison, Connecticut: International Universities Press. 1992. 244 pp. US \$32.50.

This is not a textbook, but a collection of essays by 16 notable psychiatrists and psychoanalysts who have practised in the USA. They were invited by the editor, George Pollock, to write their thoughts about their own ageing process and of those around them. One opens the book, therefore, with a sense of anticipation that one will receive the distilled wisdom of many erudite and ancient minds; one is not disappointed.

One is sure to find something of interest and some stimulating thoughts, no matter what one's personal experience is. One quibble would be that the style and layout are uneven, a perhaps inevitable result of having so many authors. However, this is compensated for by

the variety of themes which range from the strictly autobiographical to the rambling accounts of past life; from a negative view of bodily decrepitude to a positive attitude to the necessity for change and readjustment; from those who resent old age to those who welcome it as another life experience. There are also references to the influences of early life, cross-cultural living and literature.

For many of the authors, it was obviously a novel experience to have to write about themselves rather than their observations of others, and the result is an amazing amount of material from different perspectives, from which one is bound to pick one's favourites. I would have wished for more autobiographical details which would have placed the person in context, rather than simply a list of academic appointments.

This is a most stimulating exercise and should encourage us to think more about the psychology of ageing which is going to be essential as our elderly population increases.

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Emotional and Psychological Abuse of Children. By KIERAN O'HAGAN. Buckingham: Open University Press. 1993. 167 pp. £37.50 (h.b.), £12.00 (p.b.).

What makes this book an attractive read is that it is written from a fully engaged and committed perspective. O'Hagan is passionate about what he sees as the neglect or avoidance of the emotional and psychological abuse of children, as child protection workers respond to the greater drama and immediacy of physical and sexual abuse. Certainly, practitioners will testify to the difficulties of offering a persuasive definition and articulation of emotional and psychological abuse, especially in the many cases where the abuser neither intends, nor is aware of, the abuse being inflicted. O'Hagan's own definitions (which acknowledge, but do not trip up on, the overlap between the two concepts) give primacy to *observable* patterns of behaviour, emotional expressivity and psychological functioning. Particularly welcome is his survey of the mental processes and faculties (perception, attention, memory, moral sense, etc.) which are vulnerable in psychological abuse.

Given the complexity of the task of identifying emotional and psychological abuse, it is clear that they always represent serious, long-term problems for child and carers, which require excellent resources and a permanent, well trained and well supervised multi-disciplinary team at *all* stages of assessment and intervention. We are reminded throughout the book that failure to work with such a committed, experienced team can lead to professionals intensifying the abuse which children may already be suffering.

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.

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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.

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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