

protected, and yet gives full consideration to the vulnerabilities of the therapist. The author reminds us of the growing preparedness of patients to sue for negligent or improper treatment, but asks whether a genuine attempt to obtain a patient's informed consent may not, necessarily, undermine or render impossible the subsequent course of therapy. Lakin ends with a chapter entitled 'Where we are now, where we go from here'. The best preventive measure to deal with the possibility of unethical conduct by psychotherapists is, he states, personal therapy as an integral part of their professional training. While endorsing that, I also recommend that they read this book.

JANE CAMPBELL, *Associate Therapist, Department of Psychotherapy, Warneford Hospital, Oxford*

Current Issues in Clinical Psychology 1986. Edited by NADINE EISENBERG and DAVID GLASGOW. Aldershot: Gower. 1988. 218 pp. £25.00, \$50.00.

This volume presents the proceedings of the 1986 Annual Merseyside Conference of Clinical Psychology. Thus there is a variability of standards within the contributions. However, most of the chapters are readable and informative and all are short.

The four topic areas selected for this volume are: 'Rehabilitation of the head injured'; 'Giving psychology away'; 'Riots, war and the bomb'; and 'Psychiatric rehabilitation'. All five chapters in this first section highlight the failure of acute medicine to cope with the chronic problems of the head-injured and the paucity of services for these patients.

The next section highlights the current dilemmas within clinical psychology: should psychologists maintain a closed shop, train everyone else in psychological methods, or become managers? Those who thought clinical psychology was a homogeneous profession may be surprised to find we may be in danger of tearing ourselves apart.

The section on riots and war, although uneven, did raise important issues. The chapter by Ayalon on the effects of terrorism on the civilian population in Israel is especially worth mentioning.

The section on psychiatric rehabilitation is perhaps the patchiest, but of interest is the chapter by Birchwood & Smith, who describe a joint-funded programme run by clinical psychologists. This programme provides an integrated service for sufferers from schizophrenia and their families, including family intervention and management; identification of prodromal signs of relapse and low dose medication; and finally training for patients in self-control of persistent symptoms.

In summary, this is a good book of its kind.

NICHOLAS TARRIER, *Top Grade Clinical Psychologist, Prestwich Hospital*

Early Prediction and Prevention of Child Abuse. Edited by KEVIN BROWNE, CLIFF DAVIES and PETER STRATTON. Chichester: John Wiley. 1988. 315 pp. £9.50.

The term 'child abuse' is increasingly being used to describe any act of commission or omission on the part of a parent or other 'carer' which society finds unacceptable and which is presumed to be harmful, whether or not it involves physical injury, neglect of basic necessities, or inappropriate sexual activities. Its moral and shameful connotations leads to concealment, so that its prediction and prevention are made particularly difficult.

This book, based on a conference, includes contributions from 22 authors with a wide range of interests and perspectives. The majority of them work in Britain. One or two of the chapters are noteworthy. Chapter 9, written by Jim Stevenson from the Psychology Department of Surrey University and his colleagues, describes a controlled trial of the efficacy of training health visitors to use behavioural management techniques. Although the attempt was unsuccessful, the design of their study and their discussion is well worth reading. Chapter 14, by Rory Nicol, Professor of Child Psychiatry at the University of Leicester, discusses the treatment of child abuse in the home in an interesting and informative way. The account of the Minneapolis mother-child project by Byron Egeland in chapter 6 is also a useful contribution, particularly in the implications for breaking the cycle of abuse across generations. Although some of the other chapters do provide helpful information and may be worth dipping into, I found most of the book unsatisfactory. There is a considerable variation in the 'hardness' of the research described, and some of the work reported is frankly controversial, such as the chapter by Helga Hanks, Chris Hobbs and Jane Wynne on signs of sexual abuse in the pre-school child.

There are many better books recently published on child abuse in general and child sexual abuse in particular. Except for the chapters described above, I would not recommend this one.

IAN BERG, *Consultant Child Psychiatrist, High Royds Hospital, Menston, West Yorkshire*

Sensory Deception: A Scientific Analysis of Hallucination. By PETER D. SLADE and RICHARD P. BENTALL. London: Croom Helm. 1988. 285 pp. £22.50.

Psychiatrists tend to adopt a somewhat simplistic approach to hallucinations experienced by their patients – is it organic or functional in origin? one voice or more? heard through the ears or in the head? and so on. This book by two clinical psychologists seeks to present a more comprehensive account of the phenomenon. It reviews not only the traditional biological theories and