

they live in bedsits, or do those who are lonely tend to live alone and in isolation? Moreover, the data are not handled as imaginatively as they might be. The tables are one-dimensional, and do not focus on sub-groups—for example, those who are particularly at-risk. A range of cross-tabulations is needed.

The result is a rather boring description of young people, not a study which attempts to explain, understand or recommend change. In the post-script, Leslie Francis explains that he has not written any conclusions in order to avoid pre-empting “the readers’ creative work of organisation and interpretation”. Unfortunately, this feels like a cop-out, and an abdication of the researcher’s responsibilities, rather than a preservation of the reader’s open mind.

Finally, there remains the YMCA’s image. Apparently the YMCA are at pains to point out that they are open to everyone aged 16 years and above, to women as well as men and to non-Christians. This seems to render three-quarters of their name counterproductive. Why, then, don’t they change it?

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Children of Depressed Parents: Risk Identification and Intervention. Edited by HELEN L. MORRISON. New York: Grune and Stratton. 1983. Pp 296. \$29.50.

In this book, a number of American writers review a topic which is (or should be) of concern to both adult and child psychiatrists.

In the best chapter, Weissman reports her study (with Paykel) of parental and adolescent adjustment during and after an episode of maternal depression. Her comments are sensitive and sensible. In other chapters, Grunebaum *et al* emphasise the role of the spouse; and Cohler *et al* indicate that the children of depressed mothers may be at greater risk of adjustment problems than those of schizophrenics.

Despite the book’s title, the criteria for intervention remain inadequately discussed. Grunebaum *et al* write of “immunising the child against the influence of parental distortions” and of “psychiatric assistance on a continuous basis”. However, Bemmesderfer and Cohler report equivocal results from an intensive rehabilitation programme; and Cohler *et al* rightly point to the remarkable resilience of many children. Chapters by Anthony, and by Fisher and Kokes, refer to their own studies, but are curiously reluctant to give much detail; and those by Lubinsky (on genetic method) and Greenberg and Silverstein (reviewing cognitive therapy in adults) are interesting, but almost

completely irrelevant to the central issue. For a short book, there is a surprising amount of “padding”.

The better chapters are clearly written, the weaker are more pretentious. French repeatedly refers to “potholes in the road of life (P.I.R.Ls)”, which “challenge the organism’s adaptive capacity”, giving rise to “P.I.R.L.—incurred trauma—and to the mixing of many metaphors. The present reviewer remains obtuse about “differentiation from the symbiotic orbit” and “the biologic principle of repetition as an ideologic mechanism”; but he was chuckling for a week at “ventral contact” to describe a cuddle or hug!

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The Delinquent: Directions for Social Control. By MASUD HOGHUGH. London: Burnett Books. 1983. Pp 317. £15.00.

Such statements as “Research on crime is only one aspect of a large industry which exists on and is parasitic to crime” and with professionals ‘much of their expertise is of the emperor’s clothes variety’ are in this book. Included among the ‘professionals’ are policemen, judges, lawyers, community workers, social workers, and prison officers. Psychiatrists are unnamed but implied.

It was written by the principal of a regional centre for assessment and treatment of seriously disordered and delinquent youngsters with two books on a similar theme to his credit. The aim is to guide our thinking and actions towards minimising the costly impact of crime among the young through a more rigorous application of our present resources. The author is also described as an academic and has done considerable research in various aspects of delinquency.

It is in three parts. The first deals with the context of control and the concept of delinquency. This part would be of great help to anyone wishing to review the literature on delinquency. In part two, parents, teachers, peer groups, police and community workers are described as agents of the control systems. Their method of functioning is described and suggestions for improvement made. In part three methods of control are examined and assessed, these are discussed under the heading of preventive, punitive and treatment options. The epilogue poses the question “What should we do?” and attempts to weave together the various strands of thought produced over fourteen chapters. The central thesis is that at present there is both the manpower and the resources to reduce juvenile crime to a tolerable level. What is needed is increased insight on the part of parents, teachers,