

The chapter on clinical intervention provides an overview of current clinical techniques ranging from well-founded behavioural approaches to approaches like family therapy, play therapy and social modelling which are less easily evaluated or operationalised.

Throughout, lively case vignettes are used to illustrate problems of assessment, treatment, ethics and professional boundaries. Also included is a brief description of the more common childhood diseases.

The authors end the book with a plea for increased research in this area, establishing a more distinct and specialised approach to the clinical problems of these children, to combat the dangers inherent in making major health care decisions on the basis of biomedical and economic data alone.

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**Women Analyze Women in France, England and the United States.** By ELAINE HOFFMAN BARUCH and LUCIENNE J. SERANO. New York: Columbia University Press. 1989. 424 pp. \$27.50.

The authors state that their book grew out of their conviction that there is a "new form of psychoanalysis, a quiet revolution, an analysis that is centred on women, by women". They attempt to develop a theme of feminist psychoanalysis in a series of interviews with women analysts, some of international renown, in France, Britain and the USA.

The authors themselves come from a literary rather than a clinical background, although one of them is currently training as an analyst. This may account for what seems like an appreciation of psychoanalytic theory as a tool for intellectual debate rather than a way of trying to understand human beings and their development.

Almost half of the book is devoted to the French analysts and this presumably reflects the specific interests of the authors. In their introduction they comment on the fact that American literary criticism has been influenced by French writers. With the exception of the contributions of Joyce McDougall and Janine Chasseguet-Smirgel, this section of the book is very dense and difficult to follow unless one is familiar with the work of Lacan.

In contrast to the avant-garde French analysts, the authors then turn to well known establishment figures of British psychoanalysis. This section is much shorter, more accessible, but clearly of less interest to the authors. The subjects fail to confirm the authors' prejudices, often turning to their formidable clinical experience rather than entering into the intellectual debate prominent in the rest of the book.

The American contributions lie somewhere between the French and British ones with a mixture of establishment and more controversial figures.

I found the book disappointing. Some of the individual contributions made fascinating reading, but in their efforts to confirm their hypothesis, the authors often seem to ignore the continuing development of psychoanalytic thought and the contributions to this by both male and female analysts.

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**Treating Incest: A Multi-modal Systems Perspective.** Edited by TERRY S. TREPPER and MARY JO BARRETT. New York: The Haworth Press. 1986. 126 pp. \$22.95 (hb).

This compact book brings together different theoretical perspectives on incest, in a way which makes clear the pitfalls of unitary theoretical approaches, but at the same time highlights the difficulty or impossibility of integrating different perspectives.

Conceptual frameworks are dealt with in part one, and treatment of intra-familial sexual abuse in the second part of the book. Controversial issues about family systems versus individual perspectives, for instance, are discussed. However, with the exception of David Finkelhor's four pre-conditions model of sexual offending, there is little in the book which relates to the individual psychopathology and behavioural characteristics of the sexual offender himself. Four years post-publication, this deficit is rather striking, but should not totally detract from other interesting material of a clinical nature.

A functional typology of incest families is suggested by Larson & Maddock, characterised by affection-exchange, erotic-exchange, aggression-exchange, and rage-exchange processes, and schemata are outlined for the possible treatment of such families, depending on the extent of pathology identified. It is suggested that the less disturbed affection-exchange families might benefit from structural family therapy and supportive group therapy, whereas the deeply deviant rage-expression families may require separation (to ensure child protection) and therapeutic strategies to overcome fear and defensiveness which may be part of the family's social script.

An interesting chapter on the 'apology session' by Trepper describes a technique which has become very popular now that more professionals are willing to engage in direct treatment with sexual offenders. An incest family in treatment is videotaped and an edited transcript of the apology session is reprinted in the chapter. Several weeks of preparatory work have apparently been undertaken by the abusing father, the mother, and the various children including the victim, before confrontation in this meeting, the purpose of which is to allow the father to apologise for his incest

behaviour to the victim in the presence of other family members. Inevitably, one is tempted to view the abusing father's apology in a rather cynical light since experience of sexual offenders suggest that they can con themselves and others about virtually anything, including a formal apology to the victim, particularly if this ensures continued non-custodial therapy. What is lacking from the chapter, and indeed from the book, is an adequate explanation of the rationale for treatment of sexual offenders in the community, and a full explanation of the treatment programme in which the treatment session is, presumably, one small component.

Other chapters look at the role of medical assessment (not particularly helpfully) and the court (much more helpfully). "A therapist's primer for court testimony" contains a number of helpful hints about attitude and behaviour within the court context, which will help the therapist to convey his or her opinion clearly, credibly and objectively.

The last chapter in the book by Conte, "Sexual abuse in the family: a critical analysis", grasps the nettle of the limits within the family systems perspectives, and indicates that there is much more to learn about the psychopathology of the abuser and the role of this issue in family dysfunction, before any final statement can be made about incest. Conte remarks that "systems theory is a general theory describing the functioning of systems; it is not a cause or theory . . ." and later goes on to say that certain applications of systems thinking can result in the notion that the problem is not what it appears but rather something else, which, for incest, could mean that sexual abuse is not really sexual at all, but perhaps an expression of the abuse of power. Conte points out that both sexual and non-sexual dimensions are present in all forms of sexuality, presumably including incest, and that to date this has not been acknowledged in the family therapy literature. The issue of mother-blaming in relation to distorted-systems thinking is not covered in this chapter, and Conte ends by noting the need for research which will differentiate between primary processes responsible for the development of sexual abuse and secondary ones which only support or maintain sexual abuse.

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**The Empathic Imagination.** By ALFRED MARGULAS. London: W. W. Norton & Co. 1989. 181 pp. £17.50.

Psychoanalytic psychotherapies are often construed as lacking in empathy. The classic analytic session with the client on the couch and the analyst out of view is a picture which many find incongruent with being empathic. This book helps to fill the empathic gap in psychoanalytic writings. Margulies provides us with an

eloquent and scholarly insight into the nature of empathy in the therapeutic relationship. Having previously attempted to publish his work in journals, he abandoned this in favour of a book as this is really a journey, and you have to travel the whole distance to appreciate this work.

He does not write about being empathic but about empathic exploration and the demands on and capacities of the explorers. He draws upon art, poetry and literature on the one hand, and on the other, the dreams, fantasies and imagination of his clients' inner-world. Parallels are drawn between the various conceptualisations of the self in psychotherapy, from psychoanalytic to interpersonal and existential viewpoints. Therefore this book is a must for all those engaged in psychotherapy. Margulies deepens our understanding of the complexities of the individuals' inner-world. The book has an American flavour and British readers may be irritated by the absence of references to Klein and the British independent tradition. Personal Construct Psychology does not get a look in either. Despite this, the book is rich in insight and I would recommend it to all therapists.

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**Adolescent Group Psychotherapy.** Edited by FERN J. CRAMER AZIMA and LEWIS H. RICHMOND. Madison: International Universities Press. 1989. 260 pp. \$30.00.

In this monograph, one of a series from the American Group Psychotherapy Association, Azima & Richmond bring together 13 authors experienced in group therapy with adolescents to give theoretical, clinical and research perspectives on the topic.

There are three chapters on theoretical issues, three chapters on general clinical applications, then four chapters on working with special clinical populations (in secondary schools, the learning disabled, delinquents, substance abusers) and a review of relevant clinical research.

I found this a somewhat uneven book. There is plenty of good advice in it and the contributions are generally well written and easy to read. However, the very first sentence of chapter one, "There is little doubt that group psychotherapy is considered by most clinicians to be the treatment of choice for adolescents", oversells the product, although the author of this statement does redeem herself later in a very thoughtful critique of the research literature concerning adolescent group therapy. Also, the editors have been too benign in exercising editorial control. As a result I was left with an impression of questions unanswered and areas of overlap. In this respect, the theoretical section is particularly weak.

Nevertheless, there are undoubted strengths to the book. Well-chosen case vignettes from several of the