

children and families. The children's ages range from three to 16 years. The problems cover broken families, divorce, adoption, bereavement, school problems, re-constituted families, chronic illness and inconsistent parenting. The author shows how she arrives at her conclusions and decisions on therapy and she also openly discusses the professional and personal issues that challenged her in the individual cases. These were the successful and rewarding interventions. In the eighth chapter, however, Dr Lewis presents a selection of children and families where things did not go as hoped, some of her more "sobering experiences".

This volume should give insight, instruction, guidance and sometimes comfort, to professionals of all disciplines in child therapy. It is written with humour and great sensitivity and there are a comprehensive reference and additional reading sections given.

A good addition to the bookshelf.

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Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Modern Approaches. Second Edition. Edited by MICHAEL RUTTER and LIONEL HERSOV. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1985. Pp. 960. £55.

It is a testimony to the rapid development of child psychiatry that we have been eagerly awaiting the second edition of the text first produced by Rutter and Hersov in 1977. Despite the comprehensive nature of the first edition it rapidly became out of date and there were obvious gaps which have become even more apparent over these years. Fortunately, the gaps have been filled in this superb book which will certainly be the standard reference for the speciality for years to come.

Rutter and Hersov have doubled the number of contributors to produce a broad and thorough review of theoretical, clinical and treatment issues in child and adolescent psychiatry. In so doing the book is twice the size and twice the price. It remains excellent value for those committed to child psychiatry but, sadly, the price may deter some potential purchasers, such as trainees in psychiatry for whom it would be an invaluable text for Membership as well as a more than adequate introduction to child psychiatry and many aspects of adult psychiatry. It is certainly an essential reference book for those doing research or working in psychology, social work, and paediatrics, for example.

There are 18 new chapters. Some of the serious omissions now covered, include family therapy, disorders of infancy, paediatric liaison, child abuse, special education, eating disorders, consultative work and group therapy. Mental handicap and adolescent psychiatry are given appropriate greater emphasis. Particularly interesting additions are the chapter on acute reactions to stress by Garmez & Rutter and two by Rutter, links between childhood and adult life and the concluding chapter which discusses the effectiveness of psychological therapies and their evaluation. The latter two highlight areas requiring research in the future.

Each chapter contains an up-to-date and thorough review of the literature and it is striking how many important publications in the speciality there have been recently. Would that the pace could continue, but sadly, this will be difficult with decreasing academic resources and ever increasing clinical workloads. We are probably too dependent on the resources of the Institute of Psychiatry who make up almost half the contributors as for the first edition. The American contribution has increased fivefold. Hopefully, this will result in a wide readership in the United States and enhance the vastly improving interchange between the two countries. Even if our organisation of services differs at least we can ensure a common core of knowledge and mutual understanding.

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The Effects of Autism on the Family. Edited by ERIC SCHOPLER and GARY B. MESIBOV. New York: Plenum. 1984. Pp. 363. \$42.00.

This book is published as a volume in the *Current Issues in Autism* series. It is a description of the interactions between professionals and families who have a child with autism. There are four main sections: the professional as advocate, as trainer, as trainee and as the giver and receiver of emotional support. These titles reflect the aspects of clinical practice considered important by the numerous contributors.

There is a useful overview of the social policies operating in the United States and which this country is just introducing in the care of handicapped children. A cautionary message is conveyed about treatment programmes being based on unrealistic expectations and social fads which form a historical perspective and last about a decade. The author of this chapter discusses the systems