

stimulating and thought-provoking suggestions will certainly contribute to scientific progress in developmental research. I recommend this resource book to all researchers in developmental child psychology and psychiatry; it should be in any departmental library.

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Clinical Case Management: A Guide to Comprehensive Treatment of Serious Mental Illness.

Edited by ROBERT W. SURBER. London: Sage. 1994. 275 pp. £18.95 (pb).

This multi-authored book rests heavily upon contributions from American social work practitioners and teachers. Of the 11 contributors, eight are social workers, two are psychologists and one is a psychiatrist. I approached the book with pleasurable anticipation, thinking that I would find an up-to-date review of counselling, social work practice and methods found to be helpful with seriously mentally ill clients/patients. However, I found that I was merely revisiting territory and statements all too familiar to me in the 1960s and '70s, when some of us, then engaged in social work education, relied heavily on American texts based on the then popular 'systems approach' to social work problem-solving.

This text restates some of these earlier prescriptions and principles, albeit in modern terminology; for clinical manager read social worker, and so on. Somewhat bland generalisations abound, for example, "people who suffer from severe mental illness can be very difficult to treat" and "seriously mentally ill clients desire to be treated as people and not as problems".

The book suffers from some repetition, and its merits are not enhanced by the absence of an index. Psychiatrists will learn little, except that social work education and practice in the US still seems to suffer from an unbecoming degree of pretentiousness; I doubt if social work teachers in this country will place the book high on their reading lists.

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From Pain to Violence: The Traumatic Roots of Destructiveness. By FELICITY DE ZULUETA. London: Whurr. 1993. 325 pp. £17.50 (pb).

The recent murders of James Bulger and Suzanne Capper pose the question of why such things happen. The helping professions are turned to at such times, with an expectation that we may be able to offer some explanation and hope for the future. *From Pain to Violence* offers a comprehensive review of the issues,

and integrates approaches from the theoretical backgrounds of biology, ethology, psychology and psychoanalysis.

The book is in three sections, starting with "attachment gone wrong", and focuses on theoretical models that might inform our thinking about violence within relationships. Particular emphasis is given to the development of John Bowlby's work, including the ethological studies of Harlow on monkey behaviour, and also the later research on patterns of attachment in human beings. It is heartening to read such prominence given to Bowlby's ideas, which have become seemingly much more acceptable since his death. This book also reminds us that psychoanalysis has evolved considerably since Sigmund Freud (e.g. the proposition by Kohut of narcissistic rage in the genesis of violence).

The second section, "the psychology of trauma", examines the traumatic origins of violence and covers child sexual abuse, and the long-term effects of post-traumatic stress disorder. So much violence is perpetrated within the family where the roles of abuser and carer are inextricably interlinked, so that the 'trauma' of the abuse is not perceived at the time, but the 'trauma of realisation' may arrive at a conscious level months or even years after. Multiple personality disorder and dissociation in general are discussed sensibly, without getting caught in the "it does exist" and "it does not exist" dichotomy; instead, the varying mechanisms (both conscious and unconscious) that abused people use to survive their terrifying experiences are pointed out.

The third section addresses the "prevalence of psychological trauma", especially its legitimisation by the state, including the area of acting 'under orders', and the cultural sanctioning of violence.

This book manages to combine the approaches of research, and the best practice of psychiatry, with the humanity of psychotherapy. Highly recommended – and even if the answers provided lead us to yet more questions, the book has both the breadth and depth to help us understand our patients better.

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Treatment Options in Addiction: Medical Management of Alcohol and Opiate Abuse. Edited by COLIN BREWER. London: Gaskell. 1993. 108 pp. £7.50 (pb).

In the Foreword, the editor justifies this book as it is well-referenced and novel. I agree, especially concerning those chapters on disulfiram and naltrexone. He acknowledges the omission of papers on severe alcohol withdrawal and conventional in-patient opiate withdrawal. He rationalises this by saying there is little disagreement in this area. I disagree with his rationalisation.