

Although useful in some ways, the other chapters do not provide the information that a clinician needs to evaluate this new class of drugs. The index makes no reference to the principal side-effects of nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, and headache; nor does the book give any clues as to the problems these drugs have had getting onto the market. No mention is made of the safety of these drugs in overdose and in patients with cardiac illness. I am using them in these situations because, logically, they should be safe, but data on these points should be presented and discussed. The drugs are not only selective inhibitors of 5-HT, they are also extremely potent. Consequently, their combination with lithium or MAOIs might produce unwanted effects. I have seen no problems with combining one of these drugs with lithium and there is a small literature on the subject of which clinicians should be aware.

Maybe the book is just a bit premature, and in a few years time someone will be able to edit the book we need on 5-HT uptake inhibitors.

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**Illusion and Spontaneity in Psychoanalysis.** By JOHN KLAUBER *ET AL.* London: Free Association Books. 1987. 197 pp. £27.50 (hb), £9.95 (pb).

This book contains four of Klauber's lectures prepared as a part of a series for the Freud Memorial Visiting Professorship at University College, London, which sadly he never delivered because of his untimely death. Together with these are three essays by former analysands of Klauber (Neville Symington, Roger Kennedy, and Patrick Casement) and three essays by close European colleagues (Nicole Berry, David Widlöcher, and Helmut Thomä), written in appreciation of the thoughts of Klauber.

The book, as its title suggests, is devoted to those two vital themes of thought within the Independent Group of British Psychoanalysis, illusion and spontaneity. To those unfamiliar with Klauber's earlier work, the most helpful essay is that by Symington, who writes more clearly than anyone else in this volume on Klauber. Klauber himself is more reticent in his style, and comes across as overcautious, perhaps because of his anticipation of a more general audience. He is concerned that the reality of the psychoanalyst's personality and private values should be taken more into account than is usual when considering the therapeutic interactions of psychoanalysis. He sees countertransference as including more than merely the psychoanalyst's responses to his patient's transferences. The capacity of the psychoanalyst and his patient to sustain and also to survive the illusion of the transference is at the heart of his concept of the therapeutic process in psychoanalysis. It is not

so clear how he sees the analysts's capacity to be spontaneous in this process. Here I found the French psychoanalyst Berry, writing about the termination of an analysis, alive and illuminating. The contributions of Widlöcher and Thomä seem ponderous by comparison.

The problem of illusion in psychoanalysis is much broader than this book implies. It is surprising that such a text should contain so little reference to transitional phenomena, let alone the enormous difficulties that some patients have in arriving at a capacity for illusion when they enter a psychoanalysis.

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**Aggression and War: Their Biological and Social Bases.** Edited by JO GROEBEL and ROBERT A. HINDE. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1989. 237 pp. £25.00 (hb), £8.95 (pb).

In a world that appears to be saturated with the rhetoric of violence, my approach to this book was one of enthusiasm in a search for some clear-headed perspectives. I had another reason for hoped-for enlightenment: a good deal of my work in retirement is with staff who supervise those who have committed serious acts of violence and in whom there is considered to be a propensity for them to do so again. For both these reasons I found this book, edited by two distinguished academics, an enlightening and enjoyable read. Its origins are in work that was done to formulate a short statement on violence. The statement was produced in Seville in 1986, and was signed by 20 experts from 12 countries.

The editors have drawn together a group of well-known workers from a variety of disciplines – animal ethology, zoology, psychology, physiology, biology, genetics, education, and politics. Their contributions are grouped into six sections: 'Aggression: the reality and the myth', 'Biological mechanisms in the individual', 'Individual aggression and pre-social alternatives', 'Communication and group processes', 'The macro level: societies and nations' (an extrapolation to the study of warfare), and a concluding section. Each section is prefaced by a carefully written editorial making well-articulated links between the various expositions. In addition to these editorials, it is clear that the editors have put in a great deal of work to facilitate a uniform and refreshingly jargon-free presentation. Inevitably, there are minor weaknesses; there are areas of overlap and repetition, but in the main these are helpfully reinforcing rather than irritating. A little more editorial oversight of the citation of references and guidance for further reading would have facilitated a more consistent approach.