

Nowhere is the lack of editorial control clearer than in the philosophy section. It is easy to present philosophical ideas badly, resulting in papers which are incomprehensible and frustrating. There are one or two papers like this in the book. However, philosophical papers do not *have* to be like this, as German Berrios' and John Howells' contributions show. The reader must ask why these two were not selected out and published with others like them.

One might argue that editorial control was not lost but deliberately given away in order to publicise as many of the proceedings of the congress as possible. If that is the aim then it has succeeded. It would explain the huge range of topics, the uneven quality of the papers, and the fact that they are not all in the same typeface, and that not all are referenced. I think that there were many excellent papers given at this congress, but I know that not all of them were so. Although it is a most difficult task, a more discriminating editorial policy would have produced a more coherent and useful book. I think my view is summed up in the following footnote which can be found on page XXIV: "Due to unavoidable circumstances, this paper has been included at the end of the volume".

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Anorexia Nervosa, Child and Youth Psychiatry: European Perspectives, Volume 1. Edited by H. REMSCHMIDT and M. H. SCHMIDT. Ontario: Hogrefe and Huber. 1990. 179 pp.

This book is the first in a series of volumes designed to present "state of the art of European research in the field of child and youth psychiatry". It is not a text book or monograph but a compilation of original research papers and authors' reviews of their own research. This volume is divided into five sections – Epidemiology, Psychobiology, Etiology, Diagnostic and Psychopathological Issues, and Follow-Up and Prediction of outcome. It claims on its cover to be of interest to child and youth psychiatrists, psychiatrists, psychologists, paediatricians, and general practitioners. How well does it meet these aims?

This book is not easy reading. Almost without exception, the contributions are highly technical and many require considerable previous knowledge to be comprehended without difficulty. Many of the research papers include useful brief reviews of the subject before describing their research. Each research paper concludes with a discussion of the authors' findings.

This volume will have widespread appeal to those clinicians who have a specific research interest in eating disorders. However, I would expect it to have limited interest for those who have a mainly clinical involve-

ment with anorexia nervosa. I certainly do not see it appealing to most paediatricians and general practitioners.

I would highlight three contributions which are particularly worth reading: the epidemiological study by Monck *et al*, the 'Psychobiology of human starvation' by Fichter & Pirke, and the update on genetic studies by Treasure & Holland.

This volume has been printed in a fairly utilitarian manner, but I was surprised by the frequency of typographical mistakes occurring through the text. I would recommend this book to libraries and institutions, but not for the individual to buy.

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Women in Families. A Framework for Family Therapy. Edited by MONICA MCGOLDRICK, CAROL M. ANDERSON and FROMA WALSH. London: W. W. Norton & Co. 1989. 479 pp. £25.00/\$42.00.

"Since the late 1970's an increasing number of women and a small number of men have forced our attention to the underlying assumptions about gender on which the family therapy field, like the culture which created it, is based". The editors of this volume are leading members of this group of women, committed to rebalancing and redefining families, so as not to promote patterns in which women are devalued and blamed for lives they have little freedom to change. Although there is a growing body of research and literature on women's issues, this knowledge has had little effect on family therapy training and practice and yet in the views of these editors, attention to the unequal position of men and women in society is a fundamental issue in the field. *Women in Families* seeks to offer a beginning to understanding families and family therapy, taking these issues into account, although the authors see it as only a start to a change of attitude which will take generations to complete.

The volume is organised in three sections, with contributions not only from the editors, but from many others, mainly women, in the fields of family therapy, sociology, psychiatry, and related fields. The first section, dealing with theory and therapy, contains several clinical examples which bring vividly to life the issues the book is addressing. The second part, covering women and families in their context, attends to women's place in various systems, the family, marriage, sibship; and part three deals with several special issues such as work, mental illness, and addiction.

Throughout, the book is clearly written and has more than adequate references. It challenges fearlessly and authoritatively many well accepted and valued viewpoints, and should provide a focus for lively discussion