

It is in these final chapters that, in her relentless efforts to demystify and destigmatise, the author stands in danger of overstating her case. A book such as this is more than an educational document. It is also a political statement. Here, the wider context of mental illness is an issue lost in a new psychiatric "technocracy" which critics might see as a reassertion of medical paternalism. Books should be reviewed by those for whom they are written. That said, my own view is that some lay readers will find this book uncompromisingly deterministic. This would be a shame, since the author's message is intended to be one of optimism. In the end, it is her manifest enthusiasm and commitment that give the book its power.

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Transference and its Context. By LEO STONE. New York: Jason Aronson. 1984. Pp. 451. \$35.00.

I had looked forward to reviewing this book. Transference is a phenomenon of major importance not only to psychoanalysis, in fact not only to psychotherapy, but to psychiatry itself. An entire large volume, by an eminent psychoanalyst, devoted to it seemed an exciting prospect. Sadly, only one of the 16 chapters dealt exclusively with this issue and that was only a postscript to a book by the author entitled *The Psychoanalytic Situation. An Examination of its Development and Essential Nature*, published in 1961. The book in question had been summarised in the preceding chapter.

The book turned out to be a retrospective collection of some of the author's previous publications, mostly in American journals. They range from his first formal psychoanalytic communication on psychotherapy (*Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 1949–51) to a chapter in a book on psychoanalytic training published in 1982. If his style has changed at all over these 30 years it is in the direction of increasing complexity. He is not an exciting writer: he is a plodder, and only here and there, in what must amount to some 200,000 words, does he inspire the reader with stimulating new ideas. He grinds exceedingly slow but he grinds exceedingly fine. Each chapter takes up a new theme which is painstakingly worked out in a free associative manner, teasing out the threads of his arguments to their ultimate possibilities.

There is a solid core to the book concerned with the finer points of psychoanalytic therapy in which the author drives home his basic beliefs in the rule of

abstinence, the need for a secure positive attachment to the analyst before risking interpretive interventions, the respect for and tolerance of the patient's resistance and the all-pervasive struggle against separation. None of these ideas is new but they gain in their restatement in the author's humane and sensitive style. Outside this basic core there are incursions into more speculative areas. The author writes cautiously of the application of psychoanalysis to schizophrenia and comprehensively explores the sources of aggression. He indulges in a wild etymological extravaganza into the origins of the word fuck and lays great emphasis upon its similarity to the word suck. Fucking and sucking he maintains are equal and opposite activities and one is sometimes substituted for the other—as in smoking. His most colourful chapter brackets together ideas about speech, the hands and fire, though I thought it a little extreme to propose that our fear-stimulated relaxation of the urinary sphincter originated in primitive man's dread of forest fires.

This book is strictly for the committed analyst and the reader must unquestioningly accept the basic tenets of psychoanalysis. Within this fairly drastic limitation it is thoughtfully and carefully put together. Because each chapter is an entity in itself it is a book that can be dipped into. In these days of a hard-line scientific approach to psychiatry its pace is refreshingly leisurely. It is unlikely to sell well in this country but it deserves a place on some of our library shelves.

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The Psychotic Patient: Medication and Psychotherapy. By DAVID GREENFIELD. New York: The Free Press. 1985. Pp. 191. \$20.00.

The cover of this book led one to expect that one might be provided with a new model of approach to the general management of psychotic patients, the approach being one that incorporated both medication and psychotherapy. However, it emerges as a description of the general supportive approach which all psychiatrists bring to psychotic patients.

While being well written and easy to read, the book is entirely anecdotal of Dr. Greenfield's own personal experiences in his day-to-day work with psychotics. His approach does not require any prior detailed psychotherapy experience. In the bibliography, as an appendix, while there are extensive

references with regard to management and medication, on the psychotherapy side there is an absence of references to the well known analytic names in this field such as Rosenfeld, Segal, Bion, Freeman and Jacobson. There is reference to Searle's book of 1965 but a more recent review of the American psychoanalytic approach to schizophrenia by Pao is omitted.

The chapters take one through the stages of psychosis outlining flexible attitudes to be taken at each point, starting with the beginning of treatment, followed by discussing out-patient treatment and the issue of forming a therapeutic alliance with the patient. There is a chapter on discussing the meaning of medication to a patient in order to facilitate, where possible, his cooperation.

As the author is American he conveys anxieties that would not be felt so acutely in practising in England in a non-private setting, such as areas of finance, and handling potentially disturbed patients in an out-patient office.

Despite these limitations, after having had some experience in working in general psychiatry, a junior doctor might find it helpful reading to stimulate him to rethink his clinical experiences. It may also be recommended to allied professions such as social workers, nurses and psychologists who wish to get a feel of the everyday handling of psychosis by general psychiatrists.

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Denial and Defense in the Therapeutic Situation.

By THEODORE L. DORPAT. New York and London: Jason Aronson. 1985. Pp. 293. \$30.00.

In this stimulating volume Dorpat presents a theory of the process of denial or disavowal, outlining both its psychic and cognitive consequences. Denial is presented as the primary basic ego defence, and an integral aspect of all other defence mechanisms. In accord with the work of Rubenfine, he suggests that what is denied is not perceived consciously, but is registered unconsciously or subliminally through primary processes, such that it may be retrieved only through hypnosis, free association or dreaming. He criticises Freud for not recognising unconscious perception and refers to the work of H. Searles, but fails to acknowledge the contributions of Jung or Reik to this phenomenon.

He describes the alarm evoked by the pre-conscious appraisal of danger giving rise to fantasies of destruction in the denier which affect object relations and inhibit focal attention. A "cognitive

arrest" follows, which he likens to the results of Bion's "attacks on linking", and leads to prohibitions of thought formation, secondary processing, and the construction of verbal, symbolic representations of the alarming and denied experience, which remains as an unconscious complex affecting psychic functioning, being evident in "screen behaviour" or, when "dyscontrolled", in symptom formation.

In distinguishing between denial and repression, he points out that repressed psychic contents have verbal representation and may therefore be remembered, whereas denied content has no verbal representation, cannot be recalled, and therapy therefore entails creating a representation from the results of destruction referred to as "negative hallucination", and reminiscent of Kant's noumena.

In presenting this theory, Dorpat's detailed, comparative arguments encompass the work of the Freuds, Melanie Klein, Bion and other influential psychoanalysts. He seems particularly concerned to establish the biological basis of the development of denial and affirm links between denial and brain function. Clinical illustrations are clear, dynamic and comprehensive, including a chapter on shared denial in the psychoanalytic situation.

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Listening to Children. By CAROL R. LEWIS. New York: Jason Aronson. 1985. Pp. 198. \$20.00.

In choosing the title that she did for her book, Dr Lewis immediately underlines the essential element for successful therapeutic intervention with emotionally disturbed youngsters. She advocates a "prescriptive stance" in selecting the form of treatment for any given child or family, which allows the therapist to tailor-make the help offered to the individual situation. This approach will certainly find favour with readers who share the author's view that therapy should be "directed by the needs of the child, not those of the clinician". The book therefore seeks to illustrate how it is possible to combine elements from the wide variety of tried and proven therapies to provide a flexible treatment process. Examples are given of the use of individual, family, behavioural, group therapy etc., as the sole method or in combination with each other.

The first seven chapters allow the reader to share the case-work done by Dr Lewis with a selection of