only psychiatrist of whom he seems to approve is called 'distinguished'. The constant use of the term 'bourgeois' is about as helpful as some other writers' use of 'libido'.

The greatest value of the book lies in the well documented, detailed analysis of the many homophile movements, from the mid-50s to the present, with all their social and political ramifications. There is an adequate index; chapter notes and references and a separate section on 'Bibliographical Sources'.

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On Being a Woman. By FAY FRANSELLA and KAY FROST. Tavistock Publications Ltd. 1977. Pp 205. £6.00, £2.60 (paperback).

Until relatively recently much of the research into the psychology of women seems to have been biased by the societal norms or sexual stereotypes of the investigators themselves. There has been and continues to be little research into 'what it means to a woman to be a woman'. Fransella and Frost's book should provide a starting point in filling the gap in our awareness.

This book is a very useful review of research on 'what it means to be a woman' and covers such areas as work, self-esteem, personality, sex, pregnancy, etc. The studies included are taken mainly from the sociological and psychological literature to date. The interpretations and comments, however, are made in terms of Kelly's personal construct theory and with an admitted bias towards feminism.

The main body of the book will be invaluable to people involved in or embarking on research in this field who may refer to original sources for more detailed study. For the more general reader it is fairly heavy going, and the lack of methodological detail and criticism in favour of feminist interpretation makes it difficult to evaluate the studies and conclusions. However, they do outline the pitfalls of perceiving women as a collective species without sufficient regard for the effects of social context and without questioning how the individual woman perceives herself.

The later chapters on women and mental health, pregnancy and childbirth provoke the most interesting discussion on women's roles, conflicts and the possible vulnerability factors involved, although the authors are at times inclined to be rather patronising to the non-working women—those 'simply wives and mothers'. Further, they are disappointingly negative in the final chapter about the possibility for change in the individual woman without a corresponding change in society as a whole. However, further research encouraged by this book may well lead to more optimistic conclusions.

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COMMUNICATION

Manwatching: A Field Guide to Human Behaviour. By DESMOND MORRIS. London: Jonathan Cape. 1977. Pp 320. £7.95.

Desmond Morris's blockbuster *The Naked Ape*, which to date has sold almost ten million copies in twenty-three languages, must come close to the top of every hard-working scientist's list of 'books I could have written if only I had had the gall'. This snide reaction is quite understandable and yet, as those who have actually read his books will know, it is really rather an unnecessary one.

Manwatching: A Field Guide to Human Behaviour, is a lavishly illustrated, surprisingly cheap, coffee-table book 'about actions, about how actions become gestures, and about how gestures transmit messages'. The mastery of 'a number of simple concepts', claims Morris, 'makes it possible to recognize certain patterns of behaviour much more clearly' and 'enables the observer to see beneath the surface of what is taking place whenever people meet and interact'. Just those short snippets from the Introduction will be sufficient to show that *Manwatching* provides yet another opportunity for "Morrishunters" to marvel at the massive impudence of their prey.

Beginning with 'fixed action patterns', such as arm folding, head tossing and leg crossing, which are 'the basic units of behaviour the human field observer employs as his points of reference', the Manwatcher soon comes across gestures: those actions that send 'a visual signal to the onlooker'. Morris divides gestures into incidental, expressive, mimic, schematic, technical and coded; and, after acknowledging that they can be variant, multimessage, alternative, hybrid, compound and relative to region, he introduces the student Manwatcher over the next two hundred and fifty pages to a bewildering array of signs, signals, activities, behaviours, movements, displays, patterns, contacts, adornments, zones, activities and stimuli. The book ends breathlessly and appropriately with 'Resting behaviour: the postures of relaxation and the nature of sleeping and dreaming' where, one suspects, Desmond Morris may have been all along.

What can one say about such a book? It is beautiful and certainly fascinating at the 'well I never' level. It was clearly a mammoth enterprise. Nevertheless, the linking of the unlinkable, the superficiality,

and the outrageously unsubstantiated claims for its coherence and its ability to help us to understand our fellows are major faults. They make *Manwatching* a bad book. On the other hand, it is in no sense a nasty one. The faults are the faults of uncontrolled earnestness. In fact, there is a wild dottiness about the whole enterprise: not the dottiness of an absent-minded professor but much more that of a frantic collector-classifier. Readers of this journal will not need reminding of what such people are like. In medicine, they are the scavenger epidemiologists, who count things that cannot be counted, who lump together things that are quite different from each other, who tear things out of the only context in which they have any meaning, and who have hand-me-down explanations for every statistical association and for every 'unexpected' discrepancy. Morris is merely swimming in another tributary of this mainstream.

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CHILD DEVELOPMENT

The Child From Five to Ten. By ARNOLD GESELL, FRANCES ILG and LOUISE BATES. New York: Harper and Row. 1977. Pp 461. £7.95.

This book is a revised version of a work originally published in 1946. With information gathered by the yearly examination of 'fifty or more' children from a 'representative prosperous American community', it describes an orderly and supposedly inherent pattern in the growth and development of a child's behaviour through the years five to ten. It is totally comprehensive; everything is there from personal hygiene to philosophic outlook. 'Six' may break his arm if he falls, 'eight' his leg, 'five' is fond of grandparents, 'seven' enjoys family outings, 'nine' is anxious to please, 'ten' is relaxed, casual yet alert, etc., etc. Well; perhaps not everything, as parents are sternly warned 'not to be surprised if their child does some things not even mentioned in this book'. Never despair, like the seasons a stage of sunny equilibrium will inevitably follow a wintry period of contrariness.

The reason for the revision is that though children do not change the authors have noticed that perhaps the world and its cultural values *have* changed over the past thirty years. This rethinking hardly shows, however. Leafing through the chapters one recalls domestic comedy films of the late 1940s, with an America peopled by solid middle-class families living in solid middle-class suburbs. Disadvantage and disturbance are nowhere to be seen (though minor ripples on the calm are normal and should be expected). There is little hint of temperamental differences in children or of different types of family patterns, or rates of maturation. At best this is an idiosyncratic work, but in fact many parents will enjoy it, just as to my surprise I recall my pleasure in following my first child's early progress through the pages of a similar book by the same authors. I suppose it is rather like astrology: if you find a description that fits your own child's behaviour at a particular age you are delighted and promptly forget the very many discrepancies. Not a book for serious students of childhood, but one which can at the least be confidently recommended to any horoscope-fancying upper socio-economic status American parent.

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STATISTICS

Statistics at Square One. By T. D. V. SWINSCOW. London: British Medical Association. Second edition, 1977. Pp 84. £2.00.

There are few good books on statistics and this is not one of them. It is a compilation in paperback of a series of articles which first appeared in the *B.M.J.* There s nothing outstanding in the text, which consists of the usual sort of description of the usual sort of tests. The techniques covered are very elementary, although adequate for the simple research that fills most medical journals. I find it astonishing that no mention is made of the analysis of variance. Nowadays psychiatrists appreciate the need to be able to handle more than one variable and two groups at a time.

Statistics in isolation from experimental design is a sterile subject. While the author is clearly aware of this, his use of disparate examples seems confusing. It might have been more meaningful to take one area of research and illustrate the various techniques by examples from this area. Readers hoping for a good cook-book will be disappointed. This one is difficult to follow, even if it contains the test you want. Most psychiatrists will find little to interest them here. If you want advice on how to design a piece of research you will not find it in this book; neither will you learn about the appropriateness of a particular technique. This is a pity, because these are important aspects of research, but few authors consider them. Perhaps this is why there is so much bad research about, there being no good textbook on how to think clearly. This book will certainly not alter that.

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