
Book Reviews . . .

redefinition of male and female roles, marital stress and divorce, and sex in and out of marriage. Each section is introduced with editorial comments and there is an editorial introduction to each chapter.

Current Thinking

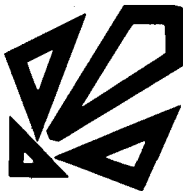
This book is rather like a display stand of current thinking — it shows what is available but you are not expected to like it all. Although there is a good spread of subjects one fifth of the book is devoted to discussing life styles that are considered alternatives to conventional marriage. This is unfortunate because the number of people involved in such life styles are in the minority and most of the authors seem to believe that they will continue to be in the minority in the future. The preoccupation with alternative life styles gives the book an out of balance appearance. It has attempted to be comprehensive — one article on each of middle age and old age is included — but it has not been comprehensive enough. In a book which purports to be about the changing family there surely ought to be more material devoted to children but, apart from three chapters on the demystification of parenthood, and especially motherhood, there is no mention of children. There is nothing at all about fatherhood, nor is there anything about adolescence apart from one chapter on the pre-marital assessment of teenage couples. There is only one chapter on work and nothing on leisure.

Overall Impression

The over-all impression given by the book is that it is largely preoc-

cupied with male-female relationships which, no doubt, is one of the major preoccupations of our time. But a book about the changing family would have served us much better if it had paid attention to the parent — child relationship, to the life cycle, and to the interaction of family and society.

Apart from these deficiencies the quality of the great bulk of the articles is not in doubt. And it is refreshing to see in this book a few articles which offer a re-evaluation of some of the criticisms of the family that we have become used to hearing. All in all, an interesting book and a provocative one and for the person who wishes to keep in touch with current thinking, a necessity.



TITLE: TEARS OFTEN SHED — Child Health and Welfare in Australia from 1788.

AUTHOR: BRYAN GANDEVIA.

PAGES: 151.

PUBLISHER: PERGAMON PRESS.

PLACE AND DATE: SYDNEY, 1978.

PRICE: \$12.00.

This book discusses aspects of child health and welfare in Australia from 1788 to about 1920. Professor Gandevia in his preface, states that “Children, their health and welfare, their morbidity and mortality, necessarily offer a more sensitive reflection of the social and physical environment in which they find themselves . . . I have tried to illustrate, if not to demonstrate, the interrelationships implicit in . . . the . . . proposition, to examine the medical aspects against the social and environmental change on disease and health and to consider the impact of medical developments on society and its attitudes . . .”

He carefully traces the health status of children from the convict ships to the early colonial days. Later influences, such as the gold rushes, also played their part. He clearly demonstrates the inevitable relationship between child health and social change. Even further, he shows, without actually stating it, how history repeats itself. The current issues in social paediatrics today, such as breast feeding and difficulties with hospitalization, were issues from the very early days of Australian life. Repeatedly the book cites the value of breast feeding in terms of infant survival. The problem of gastroenteritis is not nearly as important as then, but breast feeding recently has had an increased vogue because of the positive benefits of “maternal-child” bonding. For those interested in hospitalization of children, comments about “rooming in” after birth and schools in hospital are pertinent. The early development of child care services which includes child protection, fostering and adoption, have their roots in the 1870’s and is one of particular interest to the social worker.

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Traces Carefully

While it traces carefully and clearly the interaction between child health and social change, I have two major criticisms of this work. Firstly, the development of paediatric hospitals has been relegated to a fairly minor role in the first Appendix. Although child health changes often receive their initial impetus from outside the hospital setting, it seems artificial to completely delete a discussion of their development within the community.

Dull

Secondly, the style of the book was dull. With the careful clinical analytical approach, it lost much of the excitement of which history is made. The book consequently took a long time to read (despite my interest in the subject) and did not sustain my attention.

"Tears Often Shed" is a valuable factual account of child health for Australia's first 130 years. Because it demonstrates clearly the inter-relationship between social change and child health, it is of value to both social workers and paediatricians, as well as other health care professionals. It is a most useful reference work for libraries. I would not recommend its purchase at this price to the casual interested reader because of its dull analytical approach.

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AUSTRALIAN CHILD AND FAMILY WELFARE

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW

1. Schmitt, Barton, D. (Ed.) *The Child Protection Team Handbook* Garland STPM Press.
2. Trower, P. Bryant, B. Argyle, M. *Social Skills and Mental Health* Methuen and Co. Ltd.
3. Aitken-Swan, J. *Fertility Control and the Medical Profession* Croom-Helm.
4. Klinzing, D.R. and D.G. *The Hospitalised Child: Communication Techniques for Health Personnel*, Prentice Hall.
5. *Family Care Organisation of Victoria/Faculty of Law, Monash University Law and the Citizen Lectures, 1977.*
6. Deveson, A. *Australians at Risk* — Cassell.
7. Gandevia, B. *Tears often Shed* — Pergamon Press.
8. Day, Peter, R. *Methods of Learning Communication Skills*, Pergamon Press.
9. Cohen, S. *Social and Personality Development in Childhood* Collier Mac-Millan.
10. Gill, D. *Illegitimacy, Sexuality and the Status of Women* Blackwell.
11. Savells, J. Cross, L.J. *The Changing Family: Making way for Tomorrow.*
13. Krupinski, Stoller — *The Family in Australia.*
14. Richards, Lynn *Having Families* — Penguin Books
15. Fletcher, R. *Families and Marriage in the 70's* Penguin Books.
16. Boocock, Sarane *Introduction to Sociology of Learning* — Houghton Mifflin.
17. *Culturally Disadvantaged Students, Guidance Monograph Series, Houghton Mifflin.*

"COMMON SENSE ABOUT BABIES AND CHILDREN"

By Dr. Hugh Jolly,

170 pages,

Publishers, Times Newspapers Ltd.,
1973.

price \$1.25.

A major concern of people in the helping professions has been with child care and more recently with the education of parents in the care of their children. There is an increasing awareness that the task of "parenting" is not just "doing what comes naturally", rather it is a task requiring skills that can be learned and improved.

"Commonsense about babies and children" has been written primarily for parents and will be of interest to others involved in the upbringing and education of children. It should provide easy and compelling reading for anyone caring permanently or temporarily for children.

The book begins with a full and informative list of contents that clearly indicates the scope of the work and enables the reader to easily find his way around the book. The language is lucid and simple and there is an attempt to avoid the use of medical jargon.

5 Areas

Dr Jolly divides his book into 5 broad areas covering life before