
Book Reviews . . .

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.

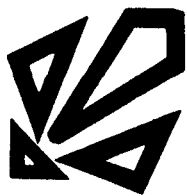
"Commonsense about babies and children" has been written primarily for parents and will be of interest to others involved in the upbringing and education of children. It should provide easy and compelling reading for anyone caring permanently or temporarily for children.

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

Book Reviews . . .



birth and aspects of babyhood; attitudes to illness; early physical complaints; children's habits and parental approaches to child management. These broad areas are further divided into 63 specific issues covering topics such as breast feeding and bottle feeding; attitudes to circumcision; when to call the doctor; preparing for a visit to hospital; the games children play and many other things. In all of this, his main emphasis is on babies and pre-school children with less emphasis on older children.

As Dr Jolly discusses the various issues of his book, he looks at the pros and cons of each situation; offers information about the issue; gives direct advice on how to handle certain situations and generally offers a psycho, emotional slant to the topics. For example, on the subject of wind and colic, Dr Jolly feels that our concern with wind may be a fetish. He comments that this preoccupation with wind is not universal and quotes examples from other cultures. He then presents an alternative way of handling the baby following a feed. Instead of winding the child he suggests that the mother cuddle and play with her baby and then lay it down when it is dozy and ready to sleep. If wind is present it will come up naturally. He also comments that what seems like a "wind reaction" may more likely be the baby's reaction to increased family activity.

Thumb Sucking

Thumb sucking is another issue examined by the author. He feels that thumb sucking is a natural phase of development, lasting approximately one year, through which most children pass. Babies he says vary in the amount that they suck their thumbs and this is related to their needs and the amount they are satisfied. Thumb sucking allows the child to explore his mouth and learn more about his body. So, Dr Jolly comments, to stop the sucking will only frustrate the child. Beyond the usual period for this phase, the child who sucks his thumb, uses this action as a comforter when frightened or bored. Dr Jolly feels the way to handle this is to deal with the child's insecurity and boredom, rather than "directly attacking the thumb".

His relaxed commonsense approach communicates a feeling of calmness and reliability that I feel will help to allay anxiety and guilt that parents often feel. His is not a mechanical approach to child rearing but rather a dynamic comment that perhaps comes from personally fulfilling experience.

Lack Depth

As he has covered a wide range of topics and his book only contains 170 pages, Dr Jolly's discussions, of necessity, lack some depth. Also with some of the issues he faces, for example toilet training, he has not paid sufficient attention to the various emotional dynamics involved.

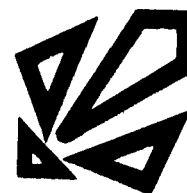
Average Successful

Dr Jolly has written this book for the "average successful" parent, who is secure and comfortable enough in his/her parent role to use what the author is offering. With this group of parents, I feel the book will be successful.

However for parents who are vulnerable and failing in their family roles I wonder firstly whether they would feel secure enough to cope with the implied expectation for parental behaviour and response to the child's needs.

Nevertheless so simple and practical is this book that it will also be of use as a resource document for workers who daily deal with parents of families.

**Jenny Conrick,
Social Worker,
St. Anthony's, Footscray.**



**"POWER FOR THE POOR" The
Family Centre Project: an ex-
periment in self-help.**

Michael Liffman, for the
Brotherhood of St. Laurence, 160
pages.