

# REVIEWS



serious reassessments of objectives being made at grassroots level by prison administrators throughout Australia, and their efforts to make such objectives realistic, widely-acceptable, attainable, and measurable.

The remainder of the book, dealing with community corrections and alternatives to imprisonment generally, is a disappointment as it fails to proceed past beginner's level in most of the discussion. It does not appear to have the same well-researched background as the first half of the book, and it quotes considerably from basic descriptive and definitional papers. The over-riding concentration on New South Wales appears to have precluded the authors from even mentioning Victoria's Attendance Centre programme, a community-based direct alternative-to-prison scheme, now accommodating 160 Victorian offenders at any one time.

But while such community-based schemes are being established, and certainly are welcomed, the reality is, as David Biles has pointed out, that the trend in Australian prisons is towards an increased number of younger, violent, longer-term prisoners. This is clearly indicative of the nature of their offences, which would generally make it unacceptable for the community to tolerate them in a community-based alternative. Hence it seems prisons are here to stay, and in such a situation, Tomasic and Dobinson could have been more productive to Australian prison management by assisting to operationalize realistic objectives. Such a continuation of the system need not be negative in outcome if our objectives are clear, attainable and measurable.

In conclusion, the job of the critic is to be critical but positive. In two areas this book is valuable. Firstly, in evaluating the achievement of rehabilitation, deterrence and reform by prisons, the authors have provided an excellent overview of research and current arguments. However, this view of objectives is narrow and restrictive, and not up-to-date with prison administrators' current thinking around Australia. Secondly, for the beginner only, the book provides a brief description of community-based alternatives to imprisonment. It should be stated separately that the chapter entitled "Punishment and the Dangerous Offender" is an excellent summary of this issue.

My major dilemma after reading the book was to try to marry the different parts together into a single whole. The authors clearly had some difficulty in achieving this, particularly as some major sections were "lifted" from separate individual papers prepared for other reasons. This has reduced the book's capacity for cohesion and consistency of theme. However, the reader should appreciate the value of the information put forward, but temper any conclusion with the knowledge that many prison administrators would have still wider objectives which have not been fully considered in this book.

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## TODDLERS AND PARENTS

by T. Berry Brozelton

240 pages

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Dr. Brozelton, the associate Professor Paediatrics at the Harvard Medical School, has a research interest in infant-mother relationships, and is author of *Infants and Mothers*.

In *Toddlers and Parents* he examines development and behaviour in the one to three years age range, in the family context. This, greater than usual, concern with the family is both relevant and refreshing. The struggle for "inner control", universally experienced by children of this age, constitutes a basic theme.

Informality renders this serious study both readable and meaningful. This effect is achieved by dealing with behaviour in a

situational manner. Several family profiles illustrate a wide variety of normal one to three year old behaviour, set against a realistic, though occasionally mildly exaggerated background of daily life in its variety of forms. In this way the important contribution of siblings and significant others, as well as parents, is incorporated. Personalization of the "characters" is also achieved by this approach, and by giving them names.

Dr. Brozelton's brief comments and interpretations are interspersed between these descriptions. These remarks are not steeped in complex psychological theory and jargon, but rather, one suspects, they are based on experience, common sense, and understanding. His clearly stated conviction, that each child is born with particular strengths and marked individuality, no doubt shapes his interpretations.

In the supportive and constructive resolutions offered for coping with the described behaviour, empathy with both children and parents is always apparent. The resolutions vary between simple explanation and blatant directiveness.

Whilst at all times aware of individual physical and emotional stages of development, Dr. Brozelton observes in several situations that children are seeking limits to their behaviour, and recommends that these be firmly established by parents.

He also demonstrates an awareness of current social problems and recent social changes, particularly devoting attention to substitute care givers, lone parent families, the changing role of women in society, and sexism in child rearing.

This book is directed towards parents, offering understanding and security in its supportive but often directive approach. But there are also some lessons for the substitute care giver, both in perceiving the patterns and individual variations in behaviour in this age group, and more particularly, regarding their important function in supporting the parent-child relationship, rather than competing for it.

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