

# REVIEWS



suggests that the lack of continuity and stability can be stressful (p.177). Rutter states that 'good quality day care does not disrupt a child's emotional bonds with his parents and even day care for very young children does not usually result in serious emotional disturbance' (p.178).

The above conclusions deserve to be highlighted and should relieve many a working parent of the guilt associated with using child-care services. Rutter stresses that these conclusions are based on studies of good day-care centres and that further research needs to be carried out to assess the effects of various aspects of care. Unfortunately few parents in Australia can be assured that the care their children receive from others is of good quality, while government funding of children's services continues to decline in real terms.

All the above influences affect the development of an individual. Rutter suggests that while early disadvantages may be overcome with extra child-care and attention, later experiences can also modify positive early experiences.

Rutter briefly touches on the influences affecting parents. Significantly, he mentions the effects the social environment may have on parenting, making special mention of research which found that 'parenting problems were more frequent in the presence of housing difficulties' (p.205).

The second edition of *Maternal deprivation re-assessed* is a significant review of current thinking related to child-care. Hopefully, it will provide the impetus to redirect debates about childcare to a useful and relevant level. The book's focus on all the qualities needed for normal development, rather than on the mother is welcome. Rutter's book provides the data which should be the foundation of government policy in relation to the provision of funds to ensure that all children have access to the best kind of care whether it be in their

own homes or elsewhere.

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## **STAYING MARRIED** By Warwick Hartin. Hill of Content, Melbourne, 1980. 100 pp. \$4.95.

An excellent book on marriage. A must for professionals working with couples or families in distress. Warwick Hartin gives a well stated and comprehensive overview of the dilemma of modern marriage and offers hope to those willing to work on their relationship.

Important aspects of the marital relationship such as expectations before and after marriage, mate selection, the disparity between dreams and reality, are dealt with in a simple effective style, with ample use of illustrations. The book as a whole is reassuring to couples in demonstrating cause and effect, both for the individual and his problems, as well as the dynamics of the relationship. Removing blame leaves the way open to assess the present situation, and make use of the practical suggestions for improving the relationship offered in Chapters 4-7.

The model of marriage suggested as meeting the needs of many people in our society, is that of the companionship marriage. This can be described as a relationship of equals which offers psychological and emotional closeness, maintained by the willingness of both

partners to work towards increased understanding of each other. To quote "In the main we are not wrong to expect what we do from marriage; we are only wrong in expecting that what we want can be achieved without pain, struggle, hurt, coping with disappointments, misery at times, and all of the conflict of giving up childish behaviour and growing up".

The book would meet the needs of couples who are well educated and motivated and can transfer theory into practice. Its scope of influence can be widened considerably if it is used as an adjunct to counselling or as a resource for marriage growth groups.

The cost by present standards is very reasonable, however the binding of the reviewer's copy did not last through the first reading.

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## **TOWARDS A LIFE OF LOVING** By Fr. Don Burnard. Hill of Content, Melbourne, 1980. 2nd edition. 189 pp. \$6.95.

The necessity for a second edition of Fr. Burnard's book on pre-marriage education speaks for itself. Fifteen years of experience in the field is reflected in the insights of both theory and a living encounter with thousands of couples. Don Burnard is a realist. He explodes the myth that marriages are made in heaven. There is a call for partners in a relationship to think. Pertinent



questions are asked. For example, why does a couple want to marry? Some very good reasons as to why this question must be asked are given. Any assumption that love will automatically solve all marital problems is realistically exploded. Marriage is compared with life. A couple get out of it what they put into it. With work and commitment, marriage can become an adventure. If couples take this book seriously they will need help, and they can get this from doing their homework in pre-marriage education.

This book suffers from a disquiet common to all who work in the field of pre-marriage education. The idealism associated with engagement causes this disquiet. The book makes good reading; is sound common sense, but a fear is that too few will read it, too few will take it seriously and too few will commit themselves to changes in attitudes and behaviour after reading it.

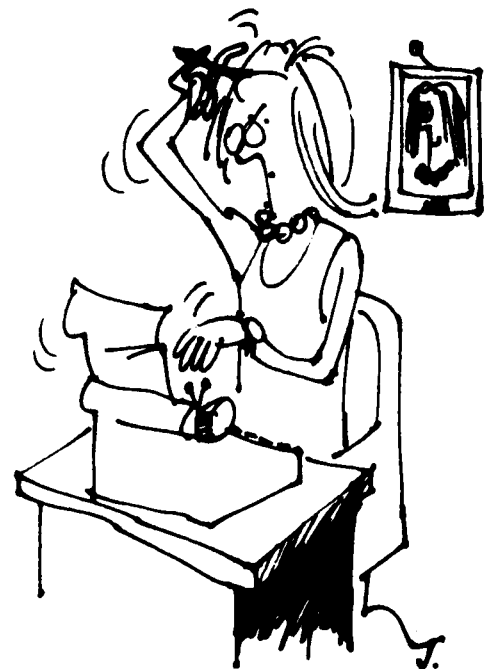
In reading the book a number of times I detected too many 'shoulds' and 'musts' which sounded too much like a sermon!

However, this is a minor criticism in view of the value of the content and the warm-hearted manner in which this is conveyed. I commend it to both celebrants and couples preparing for marriage. It will also make a useful handbook after marriage.

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which is a centre for the enrichment  
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