

This is not the main problem. While it seems feasible to suggest that the interests of the potential buyers should be kept in mind so that the complexes **might** work better, the study does not account for the change of residents and needs over time. It is true the authors are concerned about the residents being saved unnecessary expense for facilities they never use such as swimming pools and children's playgrounds. However, if we take the elderly as an example, these people, by being segregated — e.g. Elderly People's Homes as the paradigm — are more easily socialized into the life of "old age".

This in itself is a problem the authors have not considered.

EXPLOITATIVE MARKET

If we read between the lines it can be seen that those who provide O.Y.O. housing do not do so for altruistic reasons. Therefore they are part of the exploitative market forces which prevent many families from finding suitable accommodation at a suitable price. The study is as important for what it **does not** say about the housing market in Australia as for what it **does** say about O.Y.O. units. By concentrating on this specialized area it points to the difficulties faced by many people who cannot afford, or are not able, through health or age, to be involved in the normal housing market. In that sense we will not be surprised to know that owning your own is for many people a transitional status. The study points to the victims of the profit motive where the developers' "fast buck" is more important than the residents' overall comfort — both inside and outside the unit. Above all, it points to the exploitations our society tolerates in the essential area of shelter. But for those things we need to read between the lines.

CHILD CARE AND MANAGEMENT

by Patricia Edge
London: Faber & Faber, 1976.
\$7.15

REVIEWED BY

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As a complete comprehensive guide to child care and management from birth to adolescence this book fails. Some of the topics included in the book are well covered, the author presenting existing schools of thought.

The list of chapters and subheadings would lead me to believe that all possible questions would be answered. Some glaring omissions include fathers as family members involved in child care and management, sex education for the adolescent, the single parent family and divorce.

OBJECTION

One objection I felt in reading the book is that the author tended to "talk at" mothers, telling them what the proper thing is to do, but giving less consideration to the child developing as a person in his own right. Tasks of the developing child at various ages are often termed "behavioural difficulties" rather than normal stages of development.

BAD HABITS

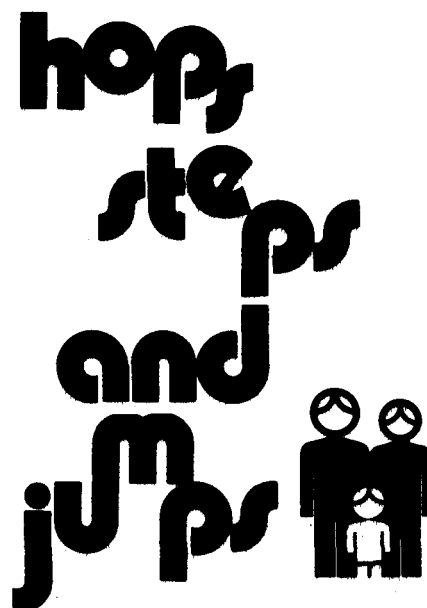
Such terms as "bad habits" (bed wetting, masturbation etc.) and phrases such as "mistakes that mothers have made earlier" would seem to me to shake the confidence of many mothers.

Some ideas I considered outdated, for instance, the author suggests that potty-training on infants of a few months old may be useful

in forming habits of cleanliness. In actuality it is mother who is trained. Toilet training as a task for the 18 month to three year old to mother is not mentioned as a separate entity.

The author's coverage of immunizations, their need and scheduling, of common childhood illnesses, and on first aid measures is adequate and I feel sure would be quite useful to mothers.

As an extra guide book in child rearing for mothers and as a possible source for discussion topics at mothers' groups this book could serve a useful purpose.



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