

## Book Reviews

B. B. Lahey and A. E. Kazdin (Eds.).

*Advances in Clinical Child Psychology. Volume 3.*

Plenum Press, 1980. \$29.50.

Reviewed by Karyn France.

Lahey and Kazdin, editors of this third volume of the *Advances in Clinical Child Psychology* series, define the subject matter of clinical child psychology as being "concerned with understanding the nature of child development and the many influences upon which such development depends", moreover, they stress that this research must extend itself to topics directly affecting the welfare of children and adolescents.

The development of clinical child psychology as a field separate from clinical psychology in general can be justified, not only by the wealth of literature of the last few years, but also by practical and ethical considerations. The child is vulnerable to the opinions of those in control. When confronted with anxious parents, concerned teachers, and a child confused by, or unaware of his inability to meet the expectations of those in control, the practitioner must judge the skills and deficits of the child and the reasonableness of the referral against a complicated matrix of maturational and situational factors.

This book answers some of the concerns that can be engendered by traditional textbooks on child psychopathology. Their chapter headings of syndromes and disorders neglect the basic question: what is the significance of this maladaptive behaviour? for this child? at this age? what adaptive behaviour should we be teaching to replace it? The importance of these questions is widely accepted but the point is well made in Furman's first chapter in this third volume. Furman concludes, after reviewing all volumes of *Behaviour Therapy* and *Journal of Applied Behaviour Analysis* that "The developmental modifications of treatment programmes have been based almost exclusively on subjective judgements, rather than on empirical evidence". Furman continues his chapter, entitled "Promoting Social Development: Development Implications for

Treatment", by describing approaches to the selection of target behaviours, choice of traditional behaviour techniques and development of innovative techniques which are based on relevant developmental research.

The book continues to fill the promise of the strong first chapter. In Chapter two Serbin reviews contemporary research into sex-role development and exposes the fallacies created by early researchers into this area. Coates and Thoresen's chapter on obesity continues the consideration of developmental factors by asking "does juvenile obesity matter?" as well as "how can we change it?"

The advantage of a series such as the "Advances in Clinical Child Psychology" volumes is the range of topics it can consider, the third volume is no exception. From the bread and butter topics of the "intelligent" interpretation of the WISC-R (Kaufman) and evaluation of commonly used self-help parent training manuals (McMahon and Forehand) the book extends to cover the very specific topic of bronchial asthma in children (Alexander) as well as important issues in the development of clinical child psychology as a profession. Two examples are Christophersen and Rapoff's investigation of the status of pediatric psychology and Romanczyk's consideration of the role of institutional treatment of severely disturbed children.

Despite the overall high quality of articles in this volume, Lutzker's article entitled "Deviant Family Systems" is disappointing. Coming to it as one keen to clarify and extend my knowledge of family systems theory I found the title misleading. Recognised family systems theorists such as Haley did not rate a mention, and at no stage was a "system" described as a process. Lutzker's definition of "system" is merely "several environmental sources, including all members of the unit, act(ing) upon the members to produce the individual behaviour in that setting". This definition fails to orient the reader to the crux of systems theory, which attempts to define the process of this influence and describe the rules and structure governing the working of the system over

and above that attributed to the individuals within that system. With the one notable exception, the citing of Azrin, Naster and Jones' 1973 "reciprocity" model, Lutzker's examples of studies based on a "systems approach" include many examples of environment influencing individual behaviour with very little exploration of the nature of the system being described.

Nor can Lutzker avoid defining the word *system* with the use of his alternative term "behavioural ecosystem". Even had the chapter been more accurately entitled "Behavioural Ecology and Deviant Families" its value would be questionable. The overall impression gained from this chapter is that behavioural researchers have finally discovered the complexities presented by a deviant family to the behavioural clinician. By avoiding the use of the term "system" or "ecosystem" Lutzker's message can be paraphrased as merely a caution to those selecting problem behaviour within the family. Any functional analysis of the identified patient's behaviour must consider the influence of the behaviour excesses and deficits of all members in the family environment.

The highlight of this book is Hart's chapter "Pragmatics and Language Development". Hart pleads for a close co-operation between behavioural psychologists and psycholinguists. She illustrates the point, from the field of language development, that whereas behavioural psychologists have highly developed techniques for changing behaviour they still depend thoroughly on other areas of general psychology to help them learn what behaviour should be taught.

Although this series highlights the need for a good textbook on the practice of clinical child psychology, it addresses itself to a range of topics far wider than possible in any textbook. As such it is a valuable resource book and should have a place on the bookshelves of the practitioner working with children and families as well as the advanced student seeking to increase his/her knowledge and skills in this area.

Sally Lloyd-Bostock (Ed.)

*Psychology in Legal Contexts: Applications and Limitations.*

London: MacMillan Press (Oxford Socio-Legal Studies), 1981.

Pp. 246.

Reviewed by M. D. Malloy

In everyday life, law is about as ubiquitous as language. It is noteworthy that, as a field of experimental study, it remains virtually untouched. A host of questions remain unasked, let alone answered. For example, can we provide a behavioural definition of law? What, if anything, distinguishes law-observant and law-deviant behaviour? If legal mechanisms are intended to influence behaviour, what options exist and how do we choose between them? How do we conceptualize the court system? Can we make it work more effectively? Is it possible to produce an experimental theory of jurisprudence?

Basic issues of this type are not touched on by the authors of the papers gathered by Sally Lloyd-Bostock. The approach is to communicate rather than to tackle unsolved problems. Professional employment seems to be the goal. As a public relations exercise, the book seems designed to infiltrate from the rear rather than to attack from the front. Among a profession made cynical by the ability of its members to purchase any desired psychiatric opinion for use in the court room, there may be concealed dangers in such subtlety. On the whole, lawyers have not been impressed by the subjective hocus pocus of psychiatrists. If they wish to secure and retain respect, psychologists must stick closely to insights derived from the laboratory and must always be ready to provide technical back-up for their conclusions.

The book provides some practical assistance to the court-oriented lawyer. Three papers deal with the assessment of evidence given in court. Patrick Rabbitt sets out to explain in a general way, "why human experimental psychology has proved largely unsuccessful in answering questions posed by lawyers and policemen." He stresses some limitations inherent in the experimental method, and attempts to suggest ways of improving the practicality of experimental

work. Brian R. Clifford discussed the relevance of experimental findings, the limitations of the method, and ways of making use of experimental data. On the subject of relevance he reminds his readers of the important distinction between pure and applied research and of the implications of blurring this distinction. He suggests a distinction between system and estimator variables as factors influencing witness accuracy. He points out that the psychologist can help with problems inherent in system variables (e.g. identification parades) by indicating improvements in practices and procedures. Estimator variables (e.g. attitudes, emotionality, etc.) are regarded as resistant to control because a psychologist cannot estimate their influence on a particular witness in a particular situation. Because barristers and judges must evaluate evidence, their ability to do this adequately would be improved by exposure to knowledge on estimator limitations and errors. Ray Bull discusses voice identification by man and machine and provides a useful overview of the technical literature and current evaluation of fallibility.

Three papers deal with the problem of confessions by people charged with criminal offences. Marquita Inman discusses the issue in terms of interrogation method, court beliefs and experimental findings and method. Hers is a useful introduction to the topic. E. Linden Hilgendorf and Barrie Irving use a decision-making model as a peg on which to hang a valuable discussion of factors capable of inducing false confessions. Their discussion on situational stress has proved very useful to a New Zealand psychologist asked to investigate a young man accused of false pretences. While the barrister in that case succeeded in reversing a previous conviction, stemming from a false confession and a guilty plea, without calling the psychologist, both were prepared to submit defence evidence of suggestibility had that been necessary. The paper is valuable for its insights on interrogation, both in terms of police method and its appraisal. A. Philip Sealy and Albert McKew report a study of jurors' behaviour using four versions of a case involving confessions, and students as experimental jurors. The findings led the authors to conclude that a confession is not necessarily a damaging piece of evidence.

These six papers comprise the comparatively hard-nosed experimental contribution to the book. The rest is a mixed bag of comment and conjecture. The view from the bench is presented by Brian Clapham. He makes the point that, in jurisdictions based on the English common law, information to the court is fed in exclusively by the barristers, working from their respective adversary positions. If psychologists believe they can assist the court, they must first sell themselves to the barristers. Lionel R. C. Howard discusses the admissibility of evidence derived from hypnosis and "lie-detection". He argues for caution on the part of forensic psychologists and for some law reform. Patricia Wright is critical of legal jargon and sentence construction. Her comments would probably apply with little modification to most specialist prose, including that from experimental psychologists. She suggests that some problems might be reduced by using a team approach to document design. Michael King argues for less rather than more intervention by the law in cases involving dispute over the custody of children. Lawyers are likely to argue that this is a nonsensical point of view in a world of increasing marital discord, and will commonly cite anecdotal evidence on the incompetence of clinical psychologists in this area.

Michael D. A. Freeman discusses the "novel" topic of family violence. Presumably, he is announcing the psychological discovery of a phenomenon well known to lawyers for centuries. His approach is positive. He suggests a perspective derived from community norms rather than psychopathology. This view stresses learning and the possibility of resocializing. It thus fits well with existing and potential research. David Miers looks at gambling and suggests that the efficacy of gaming laws should in part be tested by theoretical and experimental criteria supplied by psychology. Ivan D. Brown discusses traffic offences using a decision model. His paper leaves anyone familiar with this topic with considerable reservations. The literature on traffic surveys has not been well covered and the adequacy of his model is doubtful. Donald J. West makes some suggestions on sex law reform which might have emanated from any person well informed on the subject. He adopts the conventional lib-

eral approach expected of psychologists, but contributes nothing peculiar to the psychological laboratory.

In summary, the book contains a mixture of papers varying considerably in quality and topic. Its subject matter has been little discussed in the past, but seems capable of producing major social benefits if systematically studied. The authors must be congratulated for their pioneering effort. It is to be hoped that follow-up work will concentrate on the development of extra-system approaches to the problem of conflict resolution, as well as on intra-system issues.

Felix Donnelly (Ed.)

*A Time to Talk: Counsellor and Counseled.*  
Auckland: George Allen and Unwin, 1981.  
NZ\$11.95.

Reviewed by John Small

In the introduction to this book the editor states that its purpose is "to offer help to those who are presently working in the counselling field and those who aspire to do so". He indicates that he also has three other audiences in mind: clients of counselling services, those who are training to become counsellors, and the general public.

The material has been divided into 12 chapter-like sections, some of which have been further subdivided. Although there is no indication of any other plan to the organization, it does appear that there are four main divisions in the book. The first is a group of three chapters (pp 9-55) which seem to have been written as general statements about counselling. These are followed (pp 56-213) by contributions showing what counselling means when given to particular sorts of clients (e.g. adolescents, families, unemployed adults, prisoners) or in relation to different classes of problems (e.g. grief, sexual maladjustment, suicide, pregnancy, career choice). The third grouping (pp 214-247) contains discussions of some special settings in which counselling is given, such as telephone services, group work, and Citizens' Advice Bureaux. Finally, the editor discusses future directions that counselling will probably take.

How far does the book achieve its purpose? In general, very well. Most of the contributions are well written in the sense of being fairly easy to read, they show signs of professional competence, and they draw upon New Zealand experience. Counsellors in this country will welcome something other than British and American writing in this field.

Five of the articles on special applications of counselling are particularly good. Sue Webb's chapter on youth counselling is comprehensive and it exhibits a sure touch, especially on transference (pp 107-110), but it is the least specialized of this group. Margaret Mourant shows her experience, sympathy, and sound techniques in explaining how she deals with unhappy families. Unspoken rules, communication problems and scapegoating are noted among the characteristics of such families, and various ways of approaching these blocks are suggested. The chapter on sexual problems by Aloma Colgan and Pierre Beautrais is the most specialized. Contexts such as clients' past histories and present relationships are shown to be highly relevant here, but the distinctive contributions of the authors are in the detailed diagnoses and suggested treatments of problems in sexual intercourse.

Isabel Stanton is to be commended for her excellent discussion of the counselling of pregnant women. She considers that, compared with counselling in most other settings, there are three special features in this work: time is of the essence; fantasies have to be balanced with realities; and the feelings of each client about her role as a woman are crucial. Helping women to deal adequately with all the physical, emotional and other aspects of pregnancy, childbirth, abortion, adoption, child rearing, calls for considerable skill and sensitivity, as the author makes clear. John Glass and Max Robbins have contributed a straightforward and useful chapter on vocational counselling. They show the varied nature of this work and the complexities that can surround the choice of one's job, and they also deal, although briefly, with such issues as unemployment, mid-career changes, and the continuing difficulties experienced by women in employment.

By comparison with these discussions, the three introductory chapters are less satisfac-

tory. The problem arises from a lack of direction and focus. As elsewhere in this book, Felix Donnelly, writing on counsellors and their techniques, shows sensitivity and balance, introducing such important topics as labelling, listening, and the self-awareness of the counsellor. But the section on the major theories and popular therapies is as unsatisfactory and misleading here as is the case in most other attempts to condense complex topics into a few lines. Primal therapy is hardly a popular technique anywhere, but it gets more space than Gestalt which is widely used. Meditation and breathing exercises can be useful adjuncts to counselling, but few would accept that they qualify as popular therapies.

With its title "The New Counselling", David Simpson's chapter looked the most promising of the three, but the result was disappointing. One could thoroughly agree with a number of his comments about social pathology, about New Zealand's penchant for psychoactive pharmacology, about the poor training that many case workers have had, and about the promise of better training models, like Fischer's. But one is also told that Freud and Rogers are completely discredited, and that the "new counselling", by which he seems to mean Ellis' approach, is "bound to succeed" (p. 37). The naivety and the polemical treatment in the latter part of this chapter detract seriously from the book. The pity is that the value of eclecticism in counselling is not underlined here or anywhere in these earlier chapters. Much later, in a discussion on telephone counselling (pp. 217-220), Gordon Hambly shows what might have been achieved.

Lewis Lowery's chapter, "The Counselling Interview", although rather discursive, was the best of the introductory group. Between pages 49 and 55 he gives examples of how, in general, one might proceed in counselling another person, and how some of the blocks that are commonly reached might be overcome. No theories or therapists are mentioned, but there are signs, e.g. on p. 54 on resistance, that he would agree more with Freud's and Rogers' techniques for handling it than with Ellis' approach. However, I must record an objection: I do not accept that counselling can occur in bed, and by stating that it

can Lowery harms his cause and the cause of many others.

John Sturt's piece on medical counselling was well done, and might even have some effect, since Felix Donnelly holds an appointment in a medical school, but few counsellors even Christian ones, will find much use for Sturt's second contribution. Duncan McDonald's description of Citizens' Advice Bureaux and their involvement with counselling will be enlightened for many readers, and it is to be hoped that the suggestion about short courses for these volunteers will be pursued further.

The chapter on group counselling by Janet and Jeremy Shaw was a realistic report with some useful although incomplete guidelines for participants. However, given Donnelly's and Simpson's comments about such groups, not to mention some of the stories and innuendoes that circulate among the middle classes, the authors should have made clear whether parts of their language were perhaps intended metaphorically, e.g. "the loving is beginning" (p. 240), "uncomfortable with their increasing nakedness" (p. 242), and "move towards one another physically—supporting, caring, gentle, loving" (p. 243). A much more useful contribution than this report of an encounter weekend would have been a discussion of group work in a conventional setting such as an institution with pressing needs for counselling services.

The most pungent and arresting contribution in the whole book was Donna Awatere's chapter "Maori Counselling". It asserted that the purposes and effects of "humanism, psychiatry, behaviourism, and even other strands of psychology such as psychological testing" (p. 200) are to exert power over others. Oppression cannot be relieved by counselling: its source is in politics and economics, and it can therefore be remedied only in those arenas. Awatere acknowledges that she uses various psychological techniques to help individuals, but maintains that structural changes will come only when the powerless ally with each other and engage in political understanding, in social confrontation, and in supporting one another while changing things. This is an important challenge. Many school counsellors have similar, if less intense and explicit, feelings about aspects of their jobs.

Felix Donnelly has a well-deserved reputation as a courageous, sympathetic, and articulate writer, teacher and counsellor, and in all seven of his contributions to this book he serves as an excellent model for beginners and a challenge to those with experience. His best offering, I think, is his chapter on grief, where he shows that counselling in that setting cannot be reduced to rules and techniques, but rests in the end upon ethical principles and emotional maturity in counsellors. In the final chapter, he says some commendable things about evaluation and accountability, action methods, and environmental change. But although he mentions supervision and training several times in various places, rather surprisingly he does not develop either of these very important topics.

It is unfortunate that there are many spelling mistakes throughout and many errors in the bibliography, for the format and style are generally pleasing. The price is reasonable and the book will sell well. With some very strong chapters, this is an important contribution to the development of counselling in this country.

John Cohen.

*The Lineaments of Mind in Historical Perspective.*

Oxford: W. H. Freeman, 1980.  
PP. 325. \$28.95.

Reviewed by Hugh Priest.

"Lineaments of Mind" is a meiosis, for this book is not so much a sketch as a leisurely disquisition which tries to achieve coherence for the multifarious concepts subsumed under the word "mind" over recorded history. An ambitious project.

Cohen begins with a daunting statement: "The question of the nature of what is usually called mind is eternal, unanswerable and perhaps meaningless." (p. 1). He then goes on to attempt to answer the unanswerable, largely by presenting the context in detail, sometimes in quite excessive detail, and leaving the reader to make up his own mind. (If he can legitimately be said to have one. I should perhaps have defined what I have in mind here).

The book summarises the history of thought about many concepts. Structure, robots, the mind/body relationship, man/machine relationships, memory, perception, thinking, imagination, time and chance—to name a few. Quotations and references fall like confetti on almost every page, so much so that some passages seem to be an exercise in historical name dropping. Most are interesting, not all are particularly relevant, e.g. when discussing imagination, Cohen writes "Tamblichus of Chalcis lived during the reign of Constantine. He taught a theology which claims that the intelligible word springs from the First One, who is without attributes, ineffable. . . . His system forms . . . a bizarre justification of the polytheism. . . ." (p. 145). At best this is only tangentially related to the topic supposedly under discussion. There are many, far too many, digressions of this sort. In mitigation it should be pointed out that some are very entertaining, e.g. did you know that St Scuthin spent a night lying between two naked virgins? (sex unspecified). Having successfully resisted temptation all night the saint was able to walk on the sea without sinking. Surely the replication of this experiment poses a challenge to all modern psychologists? After you.

On a more mundane level it is interesting to know that both Helmholtz and Mozart believed their imagination to be stimulated by physical exercise, while Liebnitz opted for a seemingly catatonic immobility. (He once sat thinking for three days without movement, they say).

While most of the book is historical, it does treat with more modern issues, some of which are a bit neglected. Cohen trails his coat a little on the inextricable intertwining of memory and perception. He also points out that we know something about memory for words, but little or nothing about memory for emotions. There are some sharply barbed comments on psychology as it is to-day e.g. "Life is well furnished with *Gulag Archipeligoes* small and large, in infinite variety. As a rule psychologists do not like to talk about such unsavoury matters, and better still, not to think about them." (p. 272).

If you can afford the time for a slow paced ramble through the history of a number of concepts, then this is an interesting book.

It's main appeal will be to philosophers and to the historians of philosophy. In the "Acknowledgements" three of the six academics listed are professors of Greek. This gives a fair indication of the balance of the book.

B. A. Farrell.

*The Standing of Psychoanalysis.*

Oxford University Press.

Pp. 232. Paperback \$13.95.

Reviewed by Ralf Unger

Professor Farrell is an Oxford philosopher and here presents us with a most balanced, sensible and logical analysis of psychoanalytic theory and practice. It has none of the sweeping sarcasm of Eysenckian destroyers, nor the religious conservative defensiveness of classical Freudians. Instead the arguments follow with precise progression from stated premises by doctrinaires to developed conclusions with the latter tested out against the original hypothesis in classical fashion.

To claim that psychoanalytic theory is untestable is, according to the author, looking at it only from its lower level, but once it becomes applied that level itself can come under scrutiny. To say that only by having one's own analysis is one able to appreciate and assess the weight of psychoanalytic case material, is to eliminate the opportunity for research and allow for subjective distortion. To use only case histories as proving the theory is to belittle the influence of a convinced therapist upon his patients' acceptance of his repeated interpretations of material forthcoming.

The hypothesis may therefore be formulated that analytic method is a tool with some self-confirmatory power, and therefore not self-corrective in its development. The thought that clinical material functions for the analyst just like that of the observational

material for the naturalist in his field is a simplistic understanding.

The underlying hypotheses of psychoanalysis, Farrell continues, do point to something pervasive and important about human functioning, which an adequate psychology of the future will have to incorporate in some way and form, but whether the whole superstructure built upon it will bear the same test is doubtful. It was after all very much a child of its time with the theory of instincts, systems and simple distinction between the innate and the acquired. A dearth of cultural studies by the formulators of psychoanalytic theory left them generalising haphazardly about mankind, rather than their listed patients. Similarly, work on defense mechanisms has borne experimental fruit in only some areas such as repression and displacement, but others such as identification and regression have been accepted by articles of faith, rather than the evidence. It is possible that the theory is premature and will in fact be proven more satisfactorily in the future, or it may be seen as a quaint, blind alley that had to be left behind for more understanding to take place.

Finally, Professor Farrell concludes that therapists with a psychodynamic orientation are not simply working according to their theory, but utilising their clinical observation and clinical experience at all points in making intelligible sense out of normal and abnormal behaviour; thus the good work that they undoubtedly do may be in spite of, rather than because of their theoretical base and belief. For much of ordinary life the author feels it is sufficient to rely on the sense and sensitivity of commonsense exercised with sympathy and kindness and it is unnecessary to bother ourselves about psychoanalysis or any of the other psychodynamic psychologies that are on sale in the market place. A somewhat donnish and repetitive book but with the necessary concentration paying off in stimulating clarity of thought and observation.