

Thus the Anglican Church (with most if not all Protestant Churches) is not a party to the "Compulsory pregnancy lobby" where contraception is concerned, but opposes abortion as this involves the destruction of human life.

Peter I. VARDY

#### REFERENCES

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The Lambeth Conference (1958). London: S.P.C.K.

#### ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE COLLEGE

Sir,

This year I attended the annual college symposium for the first time. The content was fascinating,

and I have only one complaint: it was a day of visual boredom. There was a notion that it would be more democratic, or diplomatic, or at least a good idea, to reduce the speakers to sitting in the orchestra pit. It seemed a quaint paradox, when we were being exhorted to consider whole-person medicine, to be so often denied even a glimpse of our lecturers. I heartily applaud all those who had the courage to follow the old advice to "stand up, speak up and then shut up."

But gentlemen, what do I, as a small woman, do next year? Take my tapestry work to alleviate the monotonous view of pin-striped shoulders; or flee to the gallery where I may see, but might not hear?

MARGARET BIRCH

14 Plum Lane,  
London SE 18.

### BOOK REVIEWS

**Learning to Care—Person to Person** (1975). Second edition. P. S. BYRNE AND B. E. L. LONG. Pp. 118. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone. Price: £4.00.

The popularity of this introductory guide to teaching is indicated by the rapid appearance of the second edition. Its success and the stature of its authors permit a strict appraisal of the usefulness of this book by general-practitioner trainers to whom, as part-time teachers, it is directed.

The lay-out has appropriately been influenced by Bloom's *Taxonomy*, progressing from dissemination of definitions of educational terminology, through its application and analysis towards synthesis, and arriving ultimately at evaluation.

The earlier chapters are pre-occupied with the "process" of education, which is described in terms of the language to which the reader is introduced in the second chapter. As a consequence, the previously uninitiated may well be depressed by the apparent mechanics of teaching in much the same way as a golfer might be by learning the complexities of the golf swing before experiencing the pleasure to be obtained on the course. The style of these early chapters is uneasy, reflecting an academic analysis perhaps artificial to the experience of the average trainer, who may feel that understanding the terminology of the educationist and the process of teaching apparently command a higher priority than the content of the exchange between trainer and trainee.

If, however, the early chapters display an uncertainty in style, the reader is rewarded in the second half of the book, where it becomes easier to identify with the authors. The later chapters provide the kind of guidance which many trainers will find helpful, particularly those dealing with the consultation, counselling, the use of the tape recorder, and finally the important areas of evaluation and assessment. Those with responsibility for

teaching in general practice, either individually or collectively, will find this a helpful book for whom a title *Caring to Learn* could be more relevant than *Learning to Care*. Perhaps in the third edition this transposition of the title could with advantage be associated with a rearrangement to allow the later chapters to welcome the reader, rather than act as a "reinforcement" for his success in reaching them.

A. G. DONALD

**Contraception, Abortion and Sterilisation in General Practice** (1975). OLDERSHAW, K. LESLIE. Pp. 288. London: Henry Kimpton. Price: £6.50.

Dr Oldershaw has written a winner. With an easy readable style he covers in a thorough and practical way the subjects in his title, and for good measure throws in at the end a chapter on sexual problems and venereal disease.

He rightly gives most space to oral contraception and presents an exceptionally well balanced account of current knowledge.

It is unthinkable that a reviewer could find nothing in a book with which to disagree. Two points trouble me, and I think they are important. Dr Oldershaw seems to accept that the Pill causes depression. He quotes the relevant figures from *Oral Contraceptives and Health* without appreciating that the small excess of reported depression in Pill users is likely to be predominantly due to biased reporting. If the Pill ever causes depression it must be a rare event. Yet depression remains a common reason for abandoning oral contraception. Women who give up the Pill are generally poorly motivated to other methods, and they experience a 20 per cent unplanned pregnancy rate within the year. If we assume that there are