

definitive work on the subject of child abuse since it highlights the different types of abuse ranging through neglect to physical, sexual and finally emotional abuse. After giving some indication as to why things may go wrong Dr Gilmour goes on to advise on methods of dealing with the problem, protecting the child and preventing cruelty in all its various forms.

CLIVE FROGGATT
General practitioner, Cheltenham

BEYOND SEXUAL ABUSE

Therapy with women who were childhood victims

Derek Jehu
Wiley, Chichester (1988)
352 pages. Price £34.95

In the wake of the events at Cleveland when child sexual abuse is uppermost in the thoughts of many practitioners it is helpful to consider the effects of childhood abuse on adult women. Although this book indicates briefly the incidence of child sexual abuse in other countries and reports on studies which have taken place in other centres the majority of the book describes the effects of child sexual abuse on 51 women undergoing treatment for sexual dysfunction.

The book describes in depth the effects of abuse on this group of women and how their difficulties were overcome with therapy. However the number of women in the study is too small for there to be any conclusive evidence of the benefit of a particular therapy, and many of the tables fail to give figures for controls.

Although the book is interesting and gives greater insight into the possible long term effects of sexual abuse, I would not recommend it to a general practitioner unless he or she had a particular reason for acquiring such depth of knowledge. The preface describes the book as a manual which therapists might wish to draw upon in their own practice but I think that it is unlikely that many general practitioners in the UK would feel confident to undertake such detailed assessment and therapy with victims of abuse.

JACKY HAYDEN
General practitioner, Bury, Lancashire

THE CHILD'S WORLD OF ILLNESS

The development of health and illness behaviour

S.R. Wilkinson
Cambridge University Press (1988)
288 pages. Price £30.00

If a child who feels ill is to receive appropriate help from the adults who care for him, he must be able to communicate his discomfort and know that his message has been received and understood. The development of a child's understanding about health and illness and the various ways in which this is communicated are the central theme of this book. It is unfortunate therefore that 'the voice of the child' gets lost among the abstract concepts and jargon which, in spite of a glossary of terms, make heavy reading.

Those with the stamina to persevere will find much useful information relevant to consultations with children and their parents. I particularly liked the ideas for improving health education to make it more meaningful to children and to encourage them to become healthier adults.

However, a more readable book would have reached a larger audience and had more impact on the level of understanding between adult and child, helping to answer questions like the one posed by my four year old who, after complaining

that he had tummy ache said, a minute later, 'What is tummy ache?'

ANGELA DOUGLAS
General practitioner, Woodbury, Devon

A NATURAL HISTORY OF EVERYDAY LIFE

A biographical guide for would-be doctors of society

Lord Taylor of Harlow
British Medical Association, London (1988)
475 pages. Price £19.95

Dr Stephen Taylor, Lord Taylor of Harlow, who died in February 1988, was a man of many parts and it is fortunate for us that the editor of the *British Medical Journal* invited Lord Taylor to write in the *Memoir Club* series.

I knew Stephen Taylor for his work in general practice. He was a big man, restless but stimulating. He qualified from St Thomas's Hospital, London in 1935 and he does not appear to have had much of a clinical career. Nor did his wife Charity who, medically qualified, became the first governor of a women's prison. However, he had a great influence on medicine. Involved in social science he helped to organize the forerunner of the general household survey during the second world war. Immediately after the war he was elected to the House of Commons and later made a life peer. He was a 'breaker' of the doctors' strike in Saskatchewan, Canada in 1962-63 and was later invited back as president and vice-chancellor of the Memorial University, Newfoundland. He was influential in shaping modern general practice and was the author of *Good general practice* (Oxford University Press, 1954) which is a seminal book based on survey visits to 30 'good' British general practices. Immediately after this he organized the setting up of purpose-built health centres in Harlow new town.

The book could have been shorter but it is well worth reading not only to get an insight into the man but to note his views and comments on the many interesting people he became involved with. For general practitioners the 100 or so pages on the beginnings of the National Health Service, the state of general practice in the 1950s and the planning of the Harlow health centres make fascinating reading.

JOHN FRY
General practitioner, Beckenham, Kent

TRANSCULTURAL MEDICINE

Dealing with patients from different cultures

Bashir Qureshi
Kluwer, Lancaster (1989)
228 pages. Price £25.00

Transcultural medicine is a fascinating compilation of information about ways in which different ethnic backgrounds are linked with different illnesses and how cultural factors influence the way in which illnesses present. Dr Qureshi rightly includes the ethnic Europeans in his refreshingly direct look at the problems of communication and diagnosis in different ethnic groups. The book makes fascinating reading as well as being a useful source of information. There are 27 short chapters and this makes it an easy book to dip into. Its breadth is illustrated by the analysis of a famous cricketing incident which is contained in the final chapter.

Dr Qureshi has written an entertaining but also an important book. It sheds light on problems of communication which exist between people of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds and its importance therefore extends beyond the confines of consultation between a doctor and a patient.

E. GRAHAM BUCKLEY
General practitioner, Livingston