

**CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT: AN INTRODUCTION (Study pack)***Open University**Open University, Milton Keynes (1989)**1 course reader, 3 work books, 4 audiotapes, wall charts. Price £55.82*

This Open University study pack on *Child abuse and neglect* was planned as an introduction to the subject both for groups involved with child abuse in the course of their professional work — social workers, teachers, youth workers, police officers and doctors — and for individuals with more general concerns about abuse.

The pack consists of several types of learning material, including an audiotape introduction to the course with a dramatized case study. The course book *Child abuse and neglect: facing the challenge* is a comprehensive collection of articles about the psychology and sociology of child abuse and this might be useful for paediatricians, general practitioners, health visitors and other concerned professionals. The remainder of the package consists of three work books dealing with different aspects of child abuse, each accompanied by an audiotape, illustrating its themes by means of interviews and discussions with abusers and the abused. All the tapes are made with discretion and sensitivity. In addition there are wall charts about legal aspects of abuse and about helpful contacts and resources.

Although the entire package has much to commend it, its relevance for health professionals is perhaps limited because little attention is given to the more medical aspects of abuse. Its strength lies in its wider view of the topic and the book *Child abuse and neglect: facing the challenge* would be an interesting acquisition for postgraduate centre libraries.

B.E. MARKS

*Senior lecturer in general practice, University of Manchester***GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES (Video)****Better communication with old people***Elsbeth Stirling**Peter Brent, Newcastle upon Tyne (1989)**Price £87.98 (including carriage)*

The problem with videotapes lies in the inflexibility of the medium. Unlike books it is difficult to skim through the contents and select areas which are of particular interest. The initiative by British Medical Television will demonstrate whether

or not general practitioners are willing to spend time watching educational television. Those with experience in designing educational material for general practitioners use a format for videotapes which permits frequent breaks for discussion. *Golden opportunities*, sponsored by Newcastle social services department, follows this approach to some extent but the main section on life review and reminiscence lasts nearly 30 minutes. The tape illustrates techniques for developing trust and rapport with elderly people but its content is not specifically aimed at primary care. It would be most useful in day centres and day hospitals where staff from different backgrounds could use it as the starting point for discussing communication with the elderly.

*Golden opportunities* is a brave attempt in a difficult field but is perhaps further evidence that we have not yet mastered the techniques of presenting audiovisual material for primary care teams.

GRAHAM BUCKLEY

*General practitioner, Livingston, West Lothian***EVERYDAY AIDS AND APPLIANCES***Graham Mulley**British Medical Journal, London (1989)**111 pages. Price £5.95*

This is a collection of reprinted articles from the *British Medical Journal*, containing a wealth of information about a wide range of currently available aids and appliances. For each type of aid or appliance there is a critical appraisal of its usefulness together with advice about the assessment of patients and recommendations on the maintenance and possible problems that may be encountered.

While many of the aids and appliances discussed can make an enormous difference to the life of patients with a disability, some are of little value. General practitioners will find the information in this compact volume invaluable when dealing with disabled patients and making decisions about the value of specific aids. The book also contains a UK directory of disabled living centres and disablement service centres (previously artificial limb and appliance centres).

The final chapter discusses the fact that a large proportion of aids and appliances are not actually used by the patients for whom they were supplied and thus highlights the importance of a thorough initial assessment.

ANDREW CARSON

*Lecturer in general practice, University of Birmingham***CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS****THE MACMILLAN EDUCATION CENTRE**of The Dorothy House Foundation  
offers**"TAKING THE LID OFF"**

A short workshop for GPs interested in developing skills in the physical and psychological care of dying patients.

Dates: 31st November - 1st December 1989.

For further information please contact: Jill Griffiths, Education Secretary, The Macmillan Education Centre, 164 Bloomfield Road, Bath BA2 2AT. Tel. 0225 445545.

Section 63 applied for.

**"PRACTISING PREVENTION IN DEPRIVED AREAS"**A two day conference — 1st - 2nd December 1989  
at**The Queen Elizabeth Post Graduate Medical Centre  
Metchley Park Road, Birmingham B15**This conference is being organised by A.G.U.D.A. (Association of General Practitioners in Urban Deprived Areas) recently established following a national meeting in Bristol in October 1988. It is intended that this conference will establish A.G.U.D.A. as a support network and national voice for doctors working in urban deprived areas.  
**Fee £25.00 (sec. 63 approved)**

For further information please contact Mrs A.E. Jenks, Secretary, Newton Health Centre, 171 Melbourne Avenue, Birmingham B19 2JA.