

human development 'ergo hoc propter hoc'. The earlier papers of Chapin, Goldfarb, Bakwin and Spitz virtually set the direction of "research" in this area at a relatively superficial level of "reportage". It would be too unkind to suggest that the more recent work of writers and researchers such as Bowlby were consistent with overmuch speculation and rather less of factual research. Were one to entertain such unworthy thoughts one might be considered somewhat justified after reading this monograph, for here the movement is away from generalizations to the more specific aspects of environment that contribute to or detract from healthy infant functioning.

The book is set out in a form one expects of scientific reports and enquiries. The first 2 chapters describe theoretical issues, the investigation and how it was formulated and carried out. Their subjects were 41 black infants (21 boys, 20 girls) from the District of Columbia and their primary caregivers. Observations were originally made on a sample of 70 but 29 were subsequently excluded. Social, economic and educational characteristics of the parents covered a wide spectrum. The initial screening of the core sample excluded perinatal and birth difficulties, and paediatric examination assured that infants were free from gross physical and neurological impairment. All the mother-infant interactions were observed in the homes of the sample thus eliminating the unreal laboratory approach.

Chapter 3 describes theory and practice on why and how the environment was differentiated for purposes of the study. Firstly, the social environment as seen in aspects of maternal care, is discussed, and included in this section are modalities of stimulation, time relationship between infant behaviour and caregiver's response, maternal affect and the social mediation of inanimate objects. Secondly, the In-

animate Environment is subdivided into variety, responsiveness and complexity of objects in the infant's surroundings. Chapter 4 is given over to the differentiation of infant functioning including social responsiveness, language and exploratory behaviour; and these and other variables in the infant's environment are discussed clearly and fully.

The summary of observations and conceptual issues follow the methodology of the "experiment". Although variables are clearly differentiated for purposes of observation, the authors at no time suggest that such variables act independently, and a section of this chapter discusses the combination of environmental variables.

In order that the study should not lose its human touch nor relegate mother-infant relationships to statistical survey alone, Chapter 6 analytically describes some of the people and relationships in the study. The authors have rather delightfully entitled this chapter "Portraits of some live Infants and Mothers".

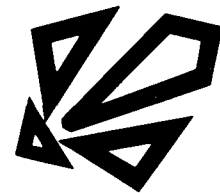
Apart from 3 appendices dealing with statistical data and explanations of experimented design and difficulties, the final chapter sums up the authors' findings, and their comments and discussion on some of the incidental material uncovered, as well as data indicating future investigation.

Although the past decade has seen much interest in the development of infants in their environment, few studies have attempted to finely differentiate the many variables operating, nor "the relations between specific dimensions of experience and infant characteristics". This study has attempted to do just this, and has done it exceedingly well. The authors nevertheless do not at any stage give the impression of self-satisfaction, and have clearly struggled to mix a human approach with scientific "purity". Already in the last chapter they are redesigning and seeking a more adequate methodology. Even some of their

unlooked-for result data such as the differences between male and female infant development are treated warily and no attempt at interpretation is made, although to the clinician this is a very real temptation, and appears at least to correlate with the greater referral ratio of males and females.

Overall this book will be of interest to all who are involved in that most important of all human relationships, mother and child, and some chapters are really essential reading for all who teach on the developing personality. A knowledge of basic statistics would be useful in understanding such areas as statistical results and methodology; but the chapters on differentiations of environment and functioning, findings and conceptual issues, and the authors' overview are both instructive and interesting, even at times fascinating. The chapter on "Portraits" is a bonus issue. One feels that the book will contribute much to the future enrichment programmes for the socially deprived in America; and certainly in the Antipodes when, and if, we channel our resources energetically, in the direction of those to whom we must ultimately hand our nation's future.

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The Family in Today's Money World, Frances L. Feldman, 2nd (ed) Family Service Association N.Y., 1976.

This book, unlike many texts, is precisely about what its title suggests . . . money! However, in my

opinion it amounts to a book that inadequately discusses both economic and family theory. The reviewer was left with the distinct impression that it is a sort of economic handyman's guide book, which contains an almost total absence of critical reflection on the economic structure, but rather takes for granted the legitimacy of the dominant position of economics on family life.

If consists of four parts all connected by the same repetitive theme of money. Part 1 entitled "Today's money world" amounts to a little short of a junior high school lecture on economics. Part 2 considers both changing life styles and the family life cycle in connection with altering demands on expenditure. Such topics as alternative life styles and the family life cycle are far more adequately discussed within a more critical scholarly context in regular family sociology texts and standard journals (e.g.) Journal of Marriage and the Family. Parts 3 and 4 are concerned with money and counselling, applications and values, needs and resources. However, again the chapters are characterized by a willing acceptance of the prevailing economic system and a marked absence of critical evaluation.

Overall this book in my opinion is of limited value, highly descriptive and tediously written throughout its 384 pages. It may find a place in a high school home-economics course, but I would doubt if it had much value in a tertiary setting. But if you want to spend the "money" and find out about how North American families spend their money or should spend their money, then go out and purchase a copy.

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ALICE PLAYED HOST

Around 75 welfare administrators, social workers, child care workers and academics took up St. Mary's invitation to spend a week in the Alice discussing "New Horizons in Child Care".

The keynote speaker for the Seminar was Richard Balbernie, noted author and superintendent of the Cotswold Community in Ashton Keynes, England, who opened the seminar with two papers "Change and controls from within" and "Alternatives and Leadership".

Mr. Balbernie's papers were based on experience at the Cotswold Community which is a small unit treatment program for young hardcore offenders.

The second day focussed on the aboriginal question with papers provided by aboriginal welfare workers from Groote Eylandt — Alan and Kevin Lalara. Their papers, which pointed up the conflicting value systems in black and white cultures provided material for an active plenary session under the chairmanship of Senator Neville Bonner.

Mr. David Green, Director of Regional Services in the Victorian

Social Welfare Department presented a paper on the third day of the seminar entitled "The Process of Change from within an Established System".

In the paper David Green discussed the pre-conditions for change which he reflected were not always the result of sophisticated planning.

Workshop groups were held around various topics and provided some lively exchanges.

Out of the working groups four resolutions were put to the conference. These were related to the reported cut backs in Government funding for Childrens Services, the means test on Family Allowances, the lack of funding for the International Year of the Child and the need for greater autonomy to be given to Regional Offices of Government Departments in decision making.

Conference papers will be available from Mr Bob Gaff, St. Mary's Child and Family Welfare Service. ALICE SPRINGS. N.T.

RENUMBERING OF PREVIOUS ISSUES

Vol 1 No 4 1976

Gremlins have totally disrupted the numbering sequence of the Journal and so we have decided to put things right by renumbering as follows:-

Vol. 2 No. 1 March, 1977

Vol. 2 No. 2 June, 1977

Vol. 2 No. 3 July, 1977

Vol. 2 No. 4 December, 1977

Vol. 3 No. 1 March, 1978

The new numbers begin with Vol. 2, No. 1, March 1977, and we suggest readers cut the new numbers from this Sheet and stick them over the old numbers.

You will note that this issue is Vol. 3, No. 2.
