

Book Reviews

Alan R. Rosenberg, Editor

CLINICAL ASPECTS OF THE RAPIST. Edited by Richard T. Rada. New York: Grune & Stratton. Pp. 241. 1978. \$15.50.

Richard T. Rada has edited and been a major contributor to an eminently sensitive, sensible, and useful book on the rapist. The phrase "the rapist" is used in a behavioral descriptive sense only. As Rada and the other contributors point out, there is no single "typical" rapist; there are many types. This book makes it abundantly clear that rape is a multi-faceted and multi-determined act, in which rapists may be playing very different roles, coming from different directions, moving toward different goals, acting out different motivations, and travelling different routes.

The book is well organized, beginning with a presentation of "Sexual Psychopathology: Historical Survey and Basic Concepts." In this chapter Rada touches on perversion and sadism in the psychodynamics of rape. He also considers the various etiologies proposed by different psychological orientations such as the psychoanalytic, learning, and ego theories of causation. He closes this chapter with the observation that "there is no lack of speculation about the cause of sex offenses. Some of this speculation is based on sound research and careful clinical observation. But it might be well to bear in mind Tauber's recent caustic comment that much of the literature and writing in the area of perversion can 'vie in perversity with the conditions for which the patients are allegedly in therapy'" (p*15).

Rada's second chapter is titled "Psychological Factors in Rapist Behavior." Here he attempts to review the various psychological elements that have been implicated in this act and the methods which have been used in efforts to understand the psychologies of rapists. He includes psychometric studies of convicted rapists, psychodynamic and psychogenetic factors in their histories (*e.g.*, parental seduction, parental cruelty, paternal absence or uninvolvedness, latency age development, and adolescence), as well as psychodynamic factors of specific rape offenses (*e.g.*, as defense against feelings of sexual inadequacy, dependency needs, or homosexual wishes, as displacement of hostility onto the victim, or as a symptom of a madonna-prostitute complex), and such clinical aspects of rapists as intelligence, physical characteristics, dreams, impotence, their wives, alcohol and other drug involvement, and rape-murders.

Park Elliott Dietz contributes a chapter on "Social Factors in Rapist Behavior." Dietz presents a thorough and carefully considered review of the extant literature with penetrating commentaries on individual studies. He also presents his own re-working of the raw data of some of the studies to

provide an enrichment of the discussion. It is one of the longest chapters in the book, and deservedly so, as it represents an excellent summary of a plethora of investigative and theoretical work.

Rada follows this with a chapter on efforts at "Classification of the Rapist." He presents a brief summary of several classification systems, concluding with one he devised in the course of his own clinical forensic experience. The next chapter, also by Rada, is on "Biological Aspects and Organic Treatment of the Rapist." This chapter alone could serve as a summary for a book-length work. As such, it is too short for the complexity and wealth of information that could have been included. In a sense, the criticism derives from Rada's having done the task of summarizing too well. He compensates for this by providing the reader with a careful and extensive documentation, so that those who wish to, may pursue topics of particular interest. Gene G. Abel, Edward B. Blanchard, and Judith V. Becker present a summary of several treatment studies and "An Integrated Treatment Program for Rapists." They begin with a discussion of the elements common to several experimental programs of varying efficacy and the reasoning involved in fashioning their own behaviorally oriented treatment program. This chapter is thought-provoking and the authors warrant applause for their pioneering work in this somewhat discouraging area. The need for experimental-investigative-therapeutic work such as theirs is soberingly laid out when they remind the reader that "When the rapist's victims undergo such devastating physical and psychological consequences, the therapist's responsibility should not only be to provide the rapist with therapy but, equally as important, to provide therapy which has been shown to be effective with controlled studies" (p. 207).

The book concludes with a chapter by Robert L. Sadoff on "The Psychiatrist and the Rapist: Legal Issues." He discusses the intricacies of the legal definition of rape, including the complexities of the concept of legal consent, and discusses, albeit briefly, the role of the psychiatrist in trials and in the legislative process. As one would expect from a forensic psychiatrist of broad experience, Sadoff points out the difficulties in the area as well as ways in which a psychiatrist can play a constructive and professionally sound role.

The contributors have provided careful, thoughtful, and sophisticated viewpoints as well as remarkably useful bibliographies. This book is a valuable and a superior resource which has been sorely needed in this area.

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FORCIBLE RAPE: THE CRIME, THE VICTIM, AND THE OFFENDER.
Edited by Duncan Chappell, Robley Geis, and Gilbert Geis. New York:
Columbia University Press. Pp. 393. 1977. \$15.00.

As anyone who is even slightly acquainted with the literature in social issues knows, the topic of rape has received far more attention in the last