

BOOK REVIEWS

CHILD ABUSE. By EH Newberger. Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1982. xvi + 282 pp. \$27.50.

Reviewed by Helen L. Morrison, MD

The authors' preface to this volume indicates the extensive value to the practitioner of its presentation. Unlike many volumes that purport to be "scientific," this volume presents "technical and personal issues of professional practices. They are perceived from the vantage points of the principal disciplines." Prior to the writing of this volume, the contributors were asked to "give not only data and guidance but also the critical tools with which to interpret others' findings and prescriptions."

There is an introduction to the history of abused children and of the protection of children. The first major section of the book deals with the social context of child abuse. The presentation of implications of child abuse and family violence for the medical professional, personal and professional responses to sexual abuse of children, and the organization and administration of programs to treat child abuse and neglect, are unusual and exciting. The social matter of isolation and its healing round out or complete this focus. The second part of the book continues to keep in mind the principles of our medical calling. The principles and ethics of practice begin with a clear and precise presentation of the law, the lawyer, and medical aspects of child abuse. The sections on imaging of the abused child, radiologic aspects, pediatric understanding, and surgical management are well done and well worthwhile for the psychiatric consultant. Child protection in the context of nursing, psychology, and social work provide an excellent background for the physician who is required to diagnose, treat, manage, and prevent injuries to children. This reviewer would highly recommend this volume for anyone interested in the mandate for treatment and protection of children.