

In contrast, at least one of the papers actually presented at the symposium appears to be mainly repetition of a famous and well-referenced article written by the author, Doctor Harry Kozol. In the book, the article (and, presumably, Doctor Kozol's address during the symposium) is entitled "The Diagnosis of Dangerousness." It is very much like "The Diagnosis and Treatment of Delinquency," written with Boucher and Garofalo in 1972, an article well-thumbed by most forensic psychiatrists. The other articles attributed as original with the symposium are by Doctors John Lion, Martin Symonds and Arthur H. Green.

Doctor Pasternack contributes a long-winded polemic about the terrible increase in crime and violence in our society, a subject he himself subjects to violence via overkill. He also has written introductory paragraphs to the various sections into which he has divided the book, e.g., "Violent Persons: Treatment Issues," "Evaluation of Dangerous Persons," etc. As a florid writer, I recognize the work of a kindred spirit. The editors to whom he entrusted his manuscripts, however, either were quite careless about elementary syntax ("The dynamics of homicide has been studied by many. . .") or were sabotaged by the typesetter and proofreaders. The best example of this carelessness is on the copyright page, where the name of the *publisher* is marked by a garish typo!

For \$14.95, the reader is legitimately entitled to a book at least well-prepared, and preferably one containing material not readily available for free in the local library's *Index Medicus*. Psychiatrists interested especially in the problems of violence and victims will do far better there, although the Boston Rape Crisis Center paper might possibly be requested by mail.

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## Two Mysteries

THE CASE ON CLOUD NINE. By Lucy Freeman. Arbor House. Pp. 177. 1975. Price \$6.95.

The physician-detective has a distinguished tradition in crime fiction, with characters like R. Austin Freeman's Dr. John Thorndyke bearing comparison with the best of the full-time detectives. Even Sherlock Holmes was modeled after a physician, Dr. Joseph Bell of Edinburgh, under whom Conan Doyle had studied medicine. The actual success of physicians in solving murders can be just as spectacular, as attested to in the biographies of the great forensic pathologists.<sup>1,2,3</sup> The psychiatrist-detective is less familiar, however, no doubt because psychiatrists have less frequently been involved in the kind of routine criminal investigation that provides one with occasional spectacular success. This despite the fact that the first fictional detective, Poe's Dupin, relied heavily on psychological analysis.<sup>4</sup> The only well-known rival to the forensic pathologists' compendia is Brussel's *Casebook of a Crime Psychiatrist*.<sup>5</sup> Whereas the successes of the forensic pathologists are attributable to keen observation and replicable scientific techniques, Brussel's successes, though requiring keen observation, rely so heavily on interpretive speculation that one wonders in how many cases he was less lucky.

Lucy Freeman has created a fictional counterpart to Brussel (and a psychiatric counterpart to the other physician-detectives) in her character, Dr. William Ames. Ames is a Central Park South psychoanalyst who occasionally teams up with Lieutenant Lonigan of the N.Y.P.D. to interview murder suspects. Ames claims to gather clues to murder from the unconscious minds of his patients (via dreams and free association), from the suspects he interviews (via their non-verbal communication and subtle points of speech), and from himself (via his recall of details not consciously observed). The method is an interesting one and has provided him with plausible solutions to three murders.

*The Case on Cloud Nine* is the third Dr. Ames novel, following *The Dream* and *The Psychiatrist Says Murder*. It relies less heavily on psychiatric insight than did the earlier novels, though it is an even stronger polemic for the wonders of psychoanalysis. The novel begins with Dr. Ames accepting a patient who, having been convicted of income tax evasion (Freeman is unclear about the charge and implies that it was state taxes that were unpaid, but no matter), has been offered a choice of sentences by an enlight-

ened judge: two years in prison or two years in psychoanalysis. After considerable rumination on the part of Ames and the narrator as to which is more fearsome, prison or the exploration of the unconscious, the man naturally chooses analysis as soon as the offer is made. He undertakes therapy with Ames' assurance that " 'Everything you say is confidential. A psychoanalyst is ethically bound not to reveal one word a patient tells him' " (p. 21). These novels all end before the murder trials, so we never learn whether a subpoena changes Ames's notion of confidentiality.

In the course of therapy, a murder from the past is linked to shootings in the present. On the basis of traditional motives, the police suspect a Mafia hit man, a rejected lover, and Ames' patient. Ames interviews the hit man and rejected lover, finds them capable of murder, but lacks evidence. Through clues from the unconscious mind Ames and his patient derive another suspect, one whose motive is less stereotyped. Suspense builds, the pace quickens, and enough evidence accumulates to elicit a confession. The story is a good one, though not equal to its immediate predecessor, *The Psychiatrist Says Murder* (1973, also published by Arbor House).

The Dr. Ames novels are worth the attention of forensic psychiatrists, not only because they offer good entertainment, but also because they highlight (and, I concede, romanticize) the potential role of forensic psychiatrists in criminal investigation. Herein lies one of their shortcomings, however; for despite frequent reflection on the ethical course of action, Ames makes his major breakthroughs only by exceeding his role as a psychoanalytic therapist. In *The Psychiatrist Says Murder*, Ames' unique contribution to solution of the crime is his exploitation of transference phenomena, and, as in *The Case on Cloud Nine*, he gathers vital information by visiting other persons significant in his patients' lives. In addition, Ames tends to make early and unwarranted interpretations that are consistently validated by the subsequent action, an oversimplification that detracts from the realism of these novels.

Annoying problems with these novels are the conventionality of the narrator and the blatant proselytization for psychoanalysis. Ames' wife, for example, is a stereotyped woman of leisure, who browses aimlessly through the Metropolitan Museum of Art, reads best sellers, and finds her reward in new clothing; only her interest in detective stories gives her character. A man's long hair is attributed to an unconscious wish to be feminine (p. 112), and Ames implies that Communism is violent, a result of the thwarted sexual instinct of Chinese leaders (p. 132). Freeman, whose many books on psychoanalysis are well known, never gives any indication that there are approaches other than psychoanalysis. In *The Case on Cloud Nine*, she has her heroine constantly uttering interpretations and referring to the benefits of her own completed analysis. Freeman portrays clear-cut good guys and bad guys, the former enamored of psychoanalysis, the latter frightened of what might lurk in the unconscious.

Despite their shortcomings, the Dr. Ames novels are a welcome addition to the tradition of the physician-detective. The psychiatrist as crime-solver is a figure with whom we must certainly become increasingly familiar.

### References

1. Browne DG and Tullett EV: *The Scalpel of Scotland Yard: The Life of Sir Bernard Spilbury*. EP Dutton, 1952
2. Smith S: *Mostly Murder*. David McKay, 1959
3. Houts M: *Where Death Delights: The Story of Dr Milton Helpen and Forensic Medicine*. Coward-McCann, 1967
4. Macdonald R: The writer as detective hero. In: Macdonald R: *On Crime Writing*. Capra Press, 1973
5. Brussel JA: *Casebook of a Crime Psychiatrist*. Bernard Geis Associates, 1968

THE MADMAN THEORY. By Ellery Queen. Signet. Pp. 191. 1975. Price \$1.25 (paper).

*The Madman Theory* contains no psychiatrist and less psychiatric insight. It is a California police-procedural novel with outdoor scenes aplenty, ready for filming on location in the Sierras. It boasts three engaging and interrelated murders and plods steadily to a