

Books Reviewed

Another provocative view is expressed by Peter G. Brown, who argues that parents should facilitate children's acquisition of "those primary goods that are necessary for successful participation in the central institutions" of one's society. Although emphasizing development of the capacity for independence, Brown does not reach the logical corollary of encouragement of minors' participation in deciding their own fate.

A third useful contribution is made by Alexander Morgan Capron, who attempts to draw analogies from other legal contexts in which one party might represent, or decide for, a second party. Although, as Capron recognizes, some of the analogies seem facially inapposite, the chapter does provide an initial effort to learn from situations analogous to third-party (for example, parental) consent to medical treatment and research.

In summary, there are notable gaps in *Who Speaks for the Child?* in the discussion of child-parent-state relationships in the health care system. Taken as a whole, the book does not adequately communicate the complexity of these relationships and of their significance in social policy. However, some of the contributors have introduced some interesting and potentially useful ways of approaching the relevant ethical problems. □

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.
Edited by F.N. Dutile, C.H. Faust, and D.R. Webster. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, D. C. Heath and Company, 1982.

Reviewed by Melvin G. Goldzband, MD

This is a very disappointing book, unfortunately characteristic of that increasing number of volumes arising from meetings. Sometimes, especially if the meetings are excellent, it is possible to derive a very valuable reference work from the compilation of mixed papers finding their way into print. More often than not, though, the product between hard covers provides little. Not much is provided here.

My major gripes center on the rather superficial approach taken by the speakers/writers. The format of the meeting actually seemed to encourage this because round tables were instituted after one or more papers, and those were carried on as are so many similar events. The people participating simply used them as forums for their own free associations that often went somewhat afield from the stated issues. Little was provided in any depth, and very little was provided in terms of reference to contemporary research or scholarship. It is as if the world stopped after the Gluecks and after Marvin Wolfgang. Some newer papers and government reports are noted, as well as *Parham*, *Tarasoff et al.*, but only token attention is paid to them. Most of the participants do not appear to get above the level of pointing out that kids need love, and that delinquent behavior may be a manifestation of the lack of that valuable commodity, at least in considerable part. Who can argue?

Silberman did better (*Criminal Violence, Criminal Justice*, NY: Random House, 1978), although his far more scholarly work did not specifically aim at the problem of juvenile delinquency. Certainly, he alluded to the need for early intervention. The problem with this present book is that it, too, only seems to allude. Some discussion of attempts to provide early, sometimes enforceable intervention in families is presented, but nothing stimulates either independent thought or imagination. It is definitely not satisfying. □

LEGAL LIABILITY IN PSYCHOTHERAPY. By Benjamin M. Schutz. San Francisco, CA and London, ENG: Jossey-Bass Inc. Publishers, 1982, 202 pp.

Reviewed by Joseph D. Bloom, MD

This book is a primer on the legal liabilities facing psychotherapists. It begins with an introduction in which the author spells out the legal framework in which psychotherapists operate.

Schutz goes on to discuss some of the basic duties owed to the patient by the psychotherapist. There is a review of the *Tarasoff* decision and the implications of this case for practice. The weakest chapter is in the area of psychotropic drugs and electroconvulsive therapy. I believe this chapter should have been written by someone more knowledgeable in the nature of medical practice.

This short book contains some 100 pages of text. The remaining pages contain various ethical guidelines from the American Psychiatric Association, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and the American Psychological Association. Such a compendium is helpful, but not necessary to the author's main task.

I would recommend this book to the novice in the field of law and mental health with the hope that once having read it the practitioner would go on to more detailed sources. □