

changes, psychoendocrine factors, nutrition, family history, and social factors provide a collection of well-organized building blocks toward greater understanding of the complex problem of delinquency. Contributors to the volume assist and challenge the reader to sort and use the findings presented as critical underpinnings for a yet-to-be-completed theory of causation and treatment of delinquency.

Lewis acknowledges the pessimistic viewpoint regarding treatment of antisocial individuals but makes clear her own opinion: she does not regard her young study population as untreatable. Rather she finds them frequently misdiagnosed, with symptoms of seizure disorders or psychosis often overlooked or dismissed as culturally determined. She views the delinquent population as neglected and undertreated, but her observations are those of a caring scholar; they lack the emotional fervor of authors such as Kenneth Wooden. The book brings into question the frequently made distinction between the criminal (fit only for incarceration) and the patient (deserving of psychiatric care). This research finds few differences between youths sentenced via the correctional and psychiatric routes. The tendency to direct black youth into the correctional system rather than into psychiatric treatment is thoughtfully discussed.

The relationship between delinquency and child abuse is addressed in several chapters, particularly Shamok and Lewis's chapter, *Medical Histories of Delinquent Children*. That chapter not only points out the importance of the medical history in the development of the delinquent but also makes recommendations for emergency room staff that are consistent with the recommendations of child abuse experts. In a final chapter on treatment implications, Lewis makes a summarizing plea for recognition "that antisocial behavior manifested by children and adults is frequently the final common pathway of the interaction between environmental factors and a variety of different, potentially treatable neuropsychological vulnerabilities." □

CARLA GOES TO COURT. By Jo Beaudy and Lynne Ketchum. New York: Human Sciences Press, 1983

Reviewed by Karen Authier, MSW, ACSW

Carla Goes to Court is a book with a specific purpose: preparation of children for participation as witnesses in the criminal justice system. It provides an account of a girl, Carla, who witnessed a burglary, and follows her from the witnessing of the criminal act through reporting of the crime, her identification of the suspect, the preliminary hearing, and the jury trial. The book is written for children at approximately fourth through sixth-grade reading levels. Abundant, large photographs by Jack Hamilton provide pictorial reference points for the young reader and greatly enhance the book. Legal terms are italicized and explained simply in the context of the story. The use of a woman as judge provides a nonsexist frame

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of reference; the story suggests that Carla and her mother form a single-parent family. The book respects the intelligence of young readers.

Carla is realistically portrayed as a young girl who is fearful throughout the process, but she provides a good model for prospective youthful witnesses by appropriately asserting herself and asking questions when she is confused. She acknowledges her feelings of fear of the proceedings but decides that her fears do not have to determine her behavior. The authors are very sensitive in anticipating the specific fears and concerns of child witnesses, such as facing the defendant in court, and build those ideas into the story. Other typical themes and issues for the book's heroine that reflect the reality of the process for young witnesses are anxiety about separation from her mother during the preliminary hearing, frustration about the need for telling her story again and again, feelings of anger toward the defense attorney, and confusion about exact times (which reflects the difference between adults' and children's senses of time).

The book would be an extremely helpful addition to the library of any professional who works with children who will be witnesses. Many children who testify in court are testifying regarding sexual abuse. The authors would provide a great service by developing a similar book portraying a child testifying on a sexual abuse charge — since that situation has additional dimensions and fears for the child. □

WINNING CUSTODY. By Maurice R. Franks. Englewood Cliffs NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1983, 192 Pp. + Index.

Reviewed by Melvin G. Goldzband, MD

I read this book immediately on completing William Manchester's remarkable first volume of his biography of Winston Churchill. While reading Franks's thin volume, I could not avoid the recurrent mental picture of a horrified Churchill reading *Mein Kampf* during the late 1920s and early 1930s. The impression made on him by Hitler's book must have been akin to that made upon me by Franks's *Winning Custody*.

On page 61, in his characteristic, very punchy style, Franks begins his chapter on "When to Split the Scene" (yes, he advises fathers to run away with the children before a divorce action is filed) with a prescient, "You're probably getting discouraged right now reading this book." This reviewer found that a considerable understatement.

Not a single aspect of this book deals with the real best interests of the fought-over children of divorce. Some lip service is paid to the notion that divorce is harmful to kids, but I found nothing about custody battles being harmful. There is an offhand reference to Goldstein, Freud, and Solnit (Franks calls them psychologists); later Franks urges litigating fathers to read their first book so that they can spout material from it and impress evaluators (page 106). He also discusses