

the reader's experience with the topic. Most chapters follow a fairly consistent yet nonrestrictive format that begins with evocative clinical examples. These examples are followed by concise descriptions of the relevant legal or clinical issues. When appropriate, an overview of the evolution of the relevant legal or clinical matters places current concerns in a historical context. Some chapters follow the case examples by clarifying key legal or clinical issues, which is necessary for a more complete understanding of the text to come. Although these explanations were very helpful for those chapters, this neophyte frequently wished that the editors had included a forensic glossary.

Most chapters offer helpful warnings and recommendations to the practicing clinician and end with a section titled "Case Example Epilogues." Although I found the coverage of certain types of evaluations disappointingly superficial and a few others not optimally well organized, other discussions were extremely helpful mini-manuals on how to perform certain types of forensic evaluations—for example, parenting assessment in cases of abuse and neglect and termination of parental rights.

The chapters on foster care and adoption, introduction to forensic evaluations, sexually aggressive youths, prevention of youth violence, and forensic ethics are all commendable chapters that stand out as well-written introductions to their respective topics. Each of these chapters spells out the inherent difficulties in working with the population or topic reviewed, yet each manages to do so honestly while offering younger, inexperienced clinicians reason to hope for progressive changes on the horizon. Chapter 2, "Introduction to the Legal System," was an absolute joy to read—it is the only chapter during which I laughed out loud twice.

After reviewing the relevant data and simplifying the complex topic of what happens to children's developmental trajectories when they are maltreated, Chapter 19, "Neurodevelopmental Impact of Violence in Childhood," addresses the political

reality that society has always and will always reap what it sows. Without preaching, the author, Bruce D. Perry, M.D., Ph.D., ends his chapter by suggesting that increased evidence of the detrimental effects of violence should and can provide parents, professionals, public officials, and policy makers the evidence they need to advocate for policies that ultimately decrease the amount of violence in youngsters' lives. The entire textbook reflects a similar style.

Without ever climbing on a soap-

box, the various authors of the chapters in this volume advocate for increased professionalism, better collaboration, and an honest appraisal of one's motivations. In many ways, the book urges its readers to bring rigor and discipline to more fairly evaluate and assist the legal system in the care, protection, treatment, and disposition of youths who are involved with the juvenile justice system, family courts, and foster care. This is a welcome and valuable text, and I highly recommend it.

Unto Us A Child: Abuse and Deception in the Catholic Church

by Donald T. Phillips; Irving, Texas, Tapestry Press, 2002, 238 pages, \$24.95

Maxine Harris, Ph.D.

Donald T. Phillips, the author of *Unto Us a Child: Abuse and Deception in the Catholic Church*, has written a moving account of one family's tragic struggle with the aftermath of sexual and physical abuse. The seven surviving members of the Albert family have lived with mental illness, severe alcohol abuse, poverty, underemployment, and fractured relationships—all, the author suggests, as a result of their abuse and mistreatment at the hands of the Catholic Church.

After they were removed from the family home because of profound poverty and neglect, the seven Albert children were placed in a Catholic orphanage. While they were there, at least four of the five boys were physically and sexually abused. One of the girls became pregnant by a priest and was sent to a Catholic-run home for unwed mothers, where she gave birth to—and relinquished custody of—an infant son. All the children suffered emotional deprivation and abuse. At every turn, the caretakers who were supposed to be helping them were the source of disappointment or outright betrayal and torment.

When, as adults, the Alberts at-

tempted to get help from the Catholic Church, they experienced what felt to at least one of the brothers like "being abused all over again." The church officials denied the accusations and countered that the Alberts were lying and merely seeking financial gain. In the courts, the Alberts again met defeat, in part because of the powerful and well-funded church lobby. Only in their support of one another and their shared knowledge of what went on in their childhoods did they find any relief or solace.

The strength of Phillips' account lies in his ability to tell a good story. As a professional writer, he knows how to engage the reader in the lives of his characters. Unfortunately, he does not place those lives in the larger context of what we know about physical and sexual abuse. Other than some commentary in the afterword, Phillips does not refer to the literature on abuse, nor does he help us to see the Alberts' story as more than a personal tragedy.

Although it is certainly true that the Albert family sees sexual and physical abuse at the core of their current struggles, and Phillips is telling their story, the picture that emerges is far more complex. Extreme poverty, with all its attendant consequences, precedes the abuse that the children experience. And their mother's struggle

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to raise nine children without support or even a modicum of personal control is the story that lays the groundwork for the story that Phillips has chosen to tell.

Although *Unto Us a Child* is an ab-

sorbing account of the impact of abuse, it leaves the reader wishing that Phillips had chosen to make some of the connections that would have made his work a more significant contribution.

Concise Guide to Marriage and Family Therapy

by Eva C. Ritvo, M.D., and Ira D. Glick, M.D.; Washington, D.C., American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc., 2002, 272 pages, \$27.95 softcover

Multifamily Groups in the Treatment of Severe Psychiatric Disorders

by William R. McFarlane; New York, Guilford Press, 2002, 403 pages, \$45

William Vogel, Ph.D.

Two books on family therapy are reviewed here, one on marriage and family therapy and the other on multifamily groups.

The senior author of *Concise Guide to Marriage and Family Therapy*, Eva C. Ritvo, M.D., is chair of the department of psychiatry and behavioral medicine at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Miami. Her coauthor, Ira D. Glick, M.D., is professor of psychiatry at Stanford University School of Medicine. Their book is designed for "psychiatrists, psychiatry residents, and medical students working in a variety of treatment settings." The authors state that the book is designed "to succinctly encapsulate the core material needed by a student (or a seasoned practitioner) in the diverse settings of current family treatment practiced around the world." However, it seems that the book would be most useful as a how-to primer for the beginning family therapist. For example, there is little focus on cross-cultural, racial, or class issues.

Concise Guide to Marriage and Family Therapy is a general guide, covering issues that might be of use to the beginner, including the history of the field; functional and dysfunctional families; how to conduct a family evaluation; the chief family problem areas; theories of family therapy; strategies and techniques; marital,

sex, and couples therapy; divorce; and indicators and contraindicators for family therapy—in brief, a broad discussion of the field. The discussion is very general, so there is little focus on specific populations—African American, Hispanic, or foreign-born persons; homeless families; persons with chronic mental illness; and older persons; for this, one must consult more specific texts.

Nevertheless, the book is well written, avoids jargon, and is very readable. It would be especially useful for medical students and residents.

William R. McFarlane, the author of *Multifamily Groups in the Treatment of Severe Psychiatric Disorders*, is a prominent, highly credentialed, and experienced psychiatrist with a wide reputation as a scholar, clinician, teacher, and administrator. In the book's preface, he writes "This volume is being published 20 years after the death of the person generally acknowledged as the pioneer of multifamily groups, H. Peter Laqueur. Remarkably, it is the first book devoted to this approach, and it is long overdue."

Long overdue, indeed. Multifamily groups are groups of families gathered in a treatment setting, all of whom have a family member afflicted by a specific illness. The focus of *Multifamily Groups in the Treatment of Severe Psychiatric Disorders* is on groups of families with a member who has schizophrenia. The technique used with these families is la-

beled psychoeducational; the families and the therapists interact and educate each other and benefit from recognizing the commonalities and differences among the families. This technique is on the cutting edge of the family therapy movement.

Part 1 of *Multifamily Groups* deals with the theory and empirical foundations of multifamily treatment, part 2 focuses specifically on schizophrenia, and part 3 discusses other mental disorders, with one chapter on chronic mental illness. The authors of the various chapters are people of reputation, eminence, experience, and credentials. I found all of the chapters to be well written and well edited. The chapters fit together to make a well-integrated, unified, mosaic-like whole, something that I find to be quite rare in edited books of this type.

This book is a must for any mental health professional who has an interest in families. It deals with an area and a methodology that were little recognized even a few years ago and that are now recognized as being of primary importance for clinical practice, teaching, and research. *Multifamily Groups in the Treatment of Severe Psychiatric Disorders* deserves a place on the bookshelf of every mental health professional.

Dangerous Minds: Political Psychiatry in China Today and Its Origin in the Mao Era

by Human Rights Watch and Geneva Initiative on Psychiatry; New York, Human Rights Watch, 2002, 298 pages, \$20 softcover

Alfred M. Freedman, M.D.

Allegations of psychiatric abuse in China have agitated many in the psychiatric and human rights communities during the past few years, undoubtedly sensitized by such allegations in relation to the former Soviet Union. Human Rights Watch and

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