

Book Reviews . . .

analysis of the societal context of immigration as a situation requiring "a comprehensive social and economic analysis of the whole phenomenon of migration." (p.2) The point is made that social workers for instance simply attempt to provide assistance to those "new poor" without undertaking such an analysis.

Because these books contain an emotional appeal within a structural context, they provide excellent, succinct, and aesthetically moving introductions to the complex perspectives relating to the immigration experience.

Loula Rodopoulos
Lecturer
Department of Social Studies
University of Melbourne.

* Berger, J. and Mohr, J. **A Seventh Man** The story of a migrant worker in Europe. Penguin Books 1975.



SCREAM QUIETLY OR THE NEIGHBOURS WILL HEAR — Erin Pizzey, (Penguin Books, Gt. Bt., 1974. Reprinted, with a postscript, in Pelican Books 1979) 149 pp. Price \$2.75.

In Scream Quietly or the Neighbours Will Hear. Erin Pizzey documents the beginnings of the women's refuge movement in England.

Chiswick Women's Aid was started in 1971 by a group of women who wished to develop a community centre. Their aim was to try and end the isolation of women at home all day with children. The house was not intended to provide accommodation and there was only one bed for emergencies. Twelve months later the community centre was a temporary home for thirty-four women and children. Erin Pizzey comments about this period, "I wonder, if we'd known what was to happen, whether we might not have put down our paint brushes and run."

The circumstances of those needing accommodation are graphically described, often through the eyes of the children, in passages such as, "I came to Women's Aid a few months ago. I came here because there is nowhere else to go. I came here because my dad keeps beating up my mum. He dragged her up the stairs by her hair. He also squashed me against the wall behind my mum. He keeps on punching her."

Women's Aid made the transition from a community centre to a women's refuge due to the inability or unwillingness of welfare agencies to assist women who were seen as voluntarily leaving their husbands. As one social worker commented "It is not the policy of the social services to interfere with the sanctity of marriage."

This book serves as a severe indictment of welfare workers with attitudes such as that above and also of the many agencies from the

police through to Marriage Guidance who have failed to assist women trapped in violent relationships. A whole chapter is devoted to the failings of the social services. The police, Social Security, hospitals, doctors, the Family Service Unit and the probation service are all mentioned. The legal and judicial systems are also shown to be guilty of either not understanding marital violence or of implicitly condoning it.

Children and their reactions to violence are a particular concern of Chiswick Women's Aid. Ms. Pizzey believes that children who have witnessed violence between their parents or have experienced it from either or both parents, are the next generation of batterers. As she says, "It's the children who suffer and the pattern repeats through each generation."

Although Erin Pizzey clearly describes the horrifying situations of many women she has been in contact with and the inflexibility of the organisations these women seek assistance from, she appears to be in some confusion as to what causes the problem. While showing an awareness of the structural reasons for women remaining in intolerable situations such as lack of finance, housing, etc., she ignores the societal basis of marital violence. The men responsible for the violence towards their partners are seen as suffering from long-term personality disorders or psychoses, which are individual problems.

This approach ignores the ideological basis of marriage and its position within capitalist society. It does not explain why the women have so much trouble finding help. It also plays into the hands of those who claim that some women "ask

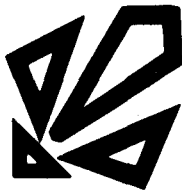
Book Reviews . . .

for a beating" or even enjoy such treatment.

I should imagine that this theoretical confusion is behind the split between Chiswick Women's Aid and the feminist National Federation of Women's Aid. In trying to avoid the separatist extremes of feminism Ms. Pizzey has ignored the fact that women do suffer specific discrimination and that unless the general inferiority women experience is countered it will not be possible to combat the violent expression of this inferior status.

This book fails to analyse why men beat their wives as opposed to assaulting other people nor does it explain why many people are critical of women who leave violent relationships. However, despite the above criticism it is a readable account of the inception of women's refuges in England and of the plight of many women using such shelters. As such it is worth looking at.

Carolyn Worth.
Social Worker,
A Women's Refuge
in Melbourne.



**THE HOSPITALIZED CHILD
— COMMUNICATION
TECHNIQUES FOR HEALTH
PERSONNEL**

Author Denis R. Klinzing
Dene G. Klinzing

168 Pages

Published by:
Prentice-Hall, Inc.,
Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey,
1977.

The authors of this book outline their theme simply and clearly in the introduction after stating how a child's emotional well-being can be disrupted by hospitalization. "... there is a key that can help hospital personnel to provide emotional care for hospitalized children. That key is communication" (page 8). To many readers, the authors appear to state the obvious quite often. It is an indictment of the adult world that the obvious needs to be stated. One can only hope that those people to whom the book is directed (doctors, nursing staff and paramedical staff) will read, digest and act on it.

The book is clearly set out in sections, and each chapter has an introductory paragraph outlining the aims of that chapter, and a summary to conclude the chapter. Extensive bibliographies after each chapter not only provide further reference material, but indicate the years of work and research undertaken to produce this volume.

Chapter 1 provides a technical but basic background to the actual process of communication and the variables involved. Chapter 2 examines in more detail the two "listener variables" which influence communication between hospital personnel and hospitalized children; "(1) Children's communication behaviours and (2) children's intellectual abilities". (page 31). Again, it is an information chapter which draws heavily on Piaget's theory of intellectual development. It is stressed several times in these 2 chapters how important it is that hospital personnel listen to and watch a child in order to receive the right message a child is communicating.

After this theoretical discussion, the next 6 chapters look at specific communication areas within a

hospital setting with the many references to other research well integrated.

Chapter 3 deals with the all-important communication between paediatric personnel and children as patients, beginning with the first encounter. Practical matters, such as hospital attire for personnel and the hospital environment, are discussed and beneficial changes suggested.

The authors believe "that the time spent establishing a relationship with a child will be more than repaid" (page 51) when it comes to performing procedures on that child at a different time.

The importance of gaining a child's confidence and trust at the initial contact cannot be stressed enough. Where appropriate, treatment procedures should be clarified to allay fear.

Valuable suggestions for identifying and accepting feelings, praising, dealing with questions, giving commands, controlling criticism and threats, the use of silence, and action when verbal communication fails, make up the remainder of this section.

Chapter 4 concentrates on ways of preparing children for hospitalization and medical procedures through various methods of communication. These include pre-admission home visits to establish a primary nurse, pre-admission school visits and hospital tours, books, videotapes and films. There is much evidence from the research quoted that the prepared child copes with the problems of hospitalization far better than the unprepared child.

The authors "believe that medical personnel have an obligation to provide hospitalized children with the