

tasies, and neurotic manifestations. Ultimately society and the men who compose it may progress to a utopian state where base emotions, poverty, greed, and hatred are unknown, where happiness and perfection are universal. Until Utopia arrives, we will have to be content with palliatives and sticking plaster in dealing with the violence of our society.

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## Hardest Job on Earth

**PARENT AND CHILD.** By Catherine Mackenzie. New York: William Sloane Assoc. 1949. 341 pp. \$2.95.

**FORTY-FIVE IN THE FAMILY: The Story of a Home for Children.** By Eva Burmeister. New York: Columbia University Press. 1949. 247 pp. \$3.25.

**YOUR CHILD'S MIND AND BODY: A Practical Guide for Parents.** By Flanders Dunbar, M. D. New York: Random House. 1949. 159 pp. \$2.95.

**THE NORMAL SEX INTERESTS OF CHILDREN: From Infancy to Childhood.** By Frances Bruce Strain. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc. 1949. 210 pp. \$2.75.

**THE PROBLEM FAMILY: An Investigation of Human Relations.** By A. S. Neil: With an Introduction by Goodwin Watson. New York: Hermitage Press, Inc. 1949. 224 pp. \$2.75.

Reviewed by C. C. ZIMMERMAN

CATHERINE MACKENZIE, noted authority on family problems and child-rearing, of *The New York Times*, presents here a selection and arrangement of those of her writings (with supplementary reference and reading list) which she considers of most value to present or prospective parents. Here we meet the theme (also emphasized by Miss Burmeister), that the problem of raising children properly, whether in institution or in the home, is the "hardest job on earth." Dr. Mackenzie opens her book with appropriate remarks upon the present necessity for more and improved parental education and moves carefully through most of the typical problems met by parent or child up through the teen ages. In each case represented the author re-



**THE AUTHOR:** At the recent Middlebury, Vt., conference to consider "a positive program for a democratic society" among many splendid observations "a spiritual ground swell" was noted. Typically, Dr. Fredric Wertham took out a box of brass tacks when his turn came to speak. What, he demanded, about the six innocent Negroes sentenced to death in Trenton? "If I were to go to them and say, 'There is a spiritual ground swell around you,' it wouldn't do much good. It's a problem of democracy to solve that! It isn't possible to discuss any program of democracy or peace on earth without discussion of violence. At present there is

a condemnation of people who advocate the overthrow of the Government by violence. What the powers that be are really worried about are the people who advocate the overthrow of violence by government."

In 1922 Dr. Wertham left Germany to teach psychiatry at Johns Hopkins. There he dreamed of a center where people who needed psychotherapy but couldn't afford it might be helped. March 8, 1946, without funds and, therefore, state license, he founded in a church basement the Lafargue Clinic, which charges 25¢ for an average visit, 50¢ if court appearance is required, nothing if the patient is destitute. For two years it has been a Veterans Administration official agency for psychiatric treatment of both white and colored ex-GI's. In 1932 he organized and directed for the New York Court of General Sessions the first clinic in the country where every convicted felon is examined psychiatrically. Since then he has been consulted on countless tabloid crimes, and his Christmas list is chock with lifers. From 1933-39 he headed Bellevue's Mental Hygiene Clinic; he is now president of the Association for the Advancement of Psychotherapy, director of psychiatric services in Queens General Hospital and the Quaker Emergency Service's readjustment center. The last, planned as a clinic for arrested sex offenders under the jurisdiction of the court, is branching out to include all people with sexual troubles. "Many," he says, "can be traced to the tensions caused by the dread of violence. The fact that comic books were published for years without anyone—even scientists—raising a voice is a sign of it." His article "The Comics . . . Very Funny!" in *SRL* May 29, 1948, raised a hullabaloo. "The next step in psychiatry and psychoanalysis will not be a further refinement of minute differences but an entirely new orientation based on the concrete interaction between inner and outer conflicts—or both individual and social factors."

"In many ways," says Dr. Wertham (a pupil of Kraepelin), "not only do I agree with Freud; it is impossible to practise psychiatry without him. But in his death instinct he got himself into an existential blind alley." Dr. Wertham turned briefly from psychiatry to neuropathology in the book "The Brain as an Organ." Another, "Dark Legend," is a detective story of the mind. He is six feet two and one-half inches tall, gray-haired, and so harried by the telephone—which frequently tolls of murder—that he sometimes forgets the address of his own office. Mrs. Wertham says that isn't Freudian—"just human." —R. G.

views some authority who has made a study of the particular problem, whether of the U. S. Children's Bureau, Boston's Judge Baker Foundation, or an appropriate institution elsewhere, and gives in succinct words the commonly accepted etiology of the difficulty, its natural history and most accepted treatment. In addition to this analysis, she uses common sense and admits that "to every parent there comes a time when the 'book' doesn't provide the answer." This capable work should fill the need of thousands of present or prospective parents who still are "people" and who naturally "never understand" many things about parent-child relations until it happens to them. The work may also

be recommended highly as a text in many of our ubiquitous courses on marriage and the family, where education on this practical level does not always get as good treatment as is given in this work.

Eva Burmeister, who writes the story of Lakeside, a children's home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has been at the institution for sixteen years as social worker and director, and is nationally recognized as a leader in the field of extra-familial child-care. Her study, reported with considerable humility and grace, tells what she has learned about the problem from her years of practical experience. (Miss Burmeister studied social work at Wisconsin and the New York School.)

Lakeside usually had about forty-five children with a turnover of about twenty-five a year, so that her observations cover experiences with some hundreds of cases of studied rehabilitation of shabbily-treated young. Her analysis covers everything considered of importance from grouping to baths, play, reading, pets, work, and social control. Particularly interesting are her observations on mental conflict which arose within the minds of the children after occasional visits from parents whose misfortunes or neglect had been responsible for the situation in which the children found themselves. The author's psychiatric background enables her to understand and to relate the psychosomatic results of these experiences upon the children. This excellent work should be of use to others dealing with the same problem or with domestic situations in which children are endangered.

Flanders Dunbar is a specialist in psychosomatic (mind and body) medicine. Her careful treatise, in nine chapters, deals with sleeping, eating, playing, affection, obedience, bodily functions, sickness, delinquency, and marriage as they should be understood by the parent who is intent on avoiding as many dangers of later psychological upsets to the child as is possible. Each chapter deals with the behavior concerned (sleeping, eating, playing, etc.) and specifies normal and expected behavior in this field. The book is replete with suggestions as to how to avoid any "adolescent aftermath." The work is well organized and presented and, in addition, documented with cases or literary references. These illustrations clarify the issues involved and give the book that certain flair which lifts it above the average doctor-patient volume. If children are troubled with sphincter control, parents can console themselves with the thought that Samuel Butler was acutely conscious of the constant struggle between bowels and men. Dr. Dunbar is evidently a disciple of neo-Freudianism in the sense that her approach to sex is more "sensible" or rounded than that of many of the extremists on the problem. All through this work is found a sanity of approach which is a tribute to the developing science of "psychosomaticiatry." The work is of potential use to parents, as well as students in family and marriage courses, and, since Flanders Dunbar is a physician, ought to find wide acceptance in medical libraries and doctors' offices.

Frances Bruce Strain is a nationally-known writer in the field of sex education. While describing her work as "not a research study or scholar's

treatise" she makes it a survey of many identifiable sexual manifestations of human behavior from infancy to senior high school. If we dissociate science from abstruse presentation and cultism, this is what it ought to



be and hence does not call for Mrs. Strain's disclaimer. Since human beings have sex glands and organs, a fact which has been well-known to Western authors since Homer, they tend to use them either directly or by sublimation, as by sucking, biting, fighting, toilet and sidewalk pornography, or in fantasy. The question

bothering Mrs. Strain, and the rest of us as well, is how to identify those actions, what to do about them, and what to tell the child or parent involved. Mrs. Strain is representative of a group who believe that sex is an historical constant, that frankness and understanding of its role are new, and that most of the problems of the contemporary family crisis will be solved through this "rediscovery [since some alleged beautiful Greek civilization] of the sexual forces." Some others, including the reviewer, are somewhat more skeptical. We recognize the potency of sex, its prevalence in nearly every form of human behavior from cradle to the grave, speak frankly about it, but are not so optimistic regarding a solution either of sex or family problems by simple palliatives in this "forever" Amber age. It is the reviewer's "observation," that most parents should keep their fingers crossed and do perhaps a little silent praying no matter how they interpret or treat the sexual manifestations of those for whom they are responsible. And, above all, to get the record clear, neither the author of this work nor her favorite source of citation, is an authority on the past aspects of sex in Western society.

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## Your Literary I.Q.

By Howard Collins

### SHAKESPEARE'S LADIES

Katharine Anderson, of Baltimore, Md., offers twenty quotations that describe certain ladies in the works of the Bard. Allowing five points if you can identify either the lady or the play, a score of sixty is par, seventy is very good, and eighty or better is excellent. Answers are on page 46.

1. There's language in her eye, her cheek, her lip.  
Nay, her foot speaks.
2. I have a man's mind, but a woman's might.
3. My mind she has mated, and amaz'd my sight.
4. O most pernicious woman!
5. Detested kite!
6. O, she deceives me past thought.
7. For her own person, it beggar'd all description.
8. She came adorned hither like sweet May.
9. There's no more faith in thee than in a stewed prune.
10. You have witchcraft in your lips.
11. Foul fiend of France, and hag of all despite.
12. She had all the royal makings of a queen.
13. She cannot endure to hear tell of a husband.
14. Her sunny locks hang on her temples like a golden fleece.
15. From all such devils, good Lord deliver us!
16. I am all the daughters of my father's house.
17. She's an adulteress.
18. I am not furnished like a beggar, therefore to beg will not become me.
19. All fancy-sick she is, and pale of cheer  
With sighs of love.
20. You tallow-face!