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BOOK REVIEWS

In the Name of Life: Essays in Honor of Erich Fromm. edited by Bernard Landis and Edward S. Tauber. New York. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1971. 333 pp., \$10.95

It is right that Erich Fromm be honored in his lifetime, and these essays do him honor. Fromm deserves far more recognition among psychiatrists and psychoanalysts than he has thus far received. More than anyone before him, he sought to systematically revise psychoanalytic theory so as to make it congruent with social, cultural, and political reality. Perhaps this volume will help others to appreciate the relevance and significance of this effort.

One comes away from this series of brief encounters with lively and scholarly minds (24 in all, arranged in three groupings—psychoanalysis, philosophy and science, and social and political issues) with a sense of what is occurring at the advancing edge of man's knowledge about himself as an individual and as a social creature, vulnerable to both psychological and social stresses and subject to a burdensome as well as helpful cultural inheritance. Add to his woes those of the miscarriage and misdirection of political aims, and the almost desperate concern for man's fate expressed by many of the essayists becomes understandable.

Isaac Asimov, in particular, captures with a few startling figures the plight in which our immediate progenitors are apt to find themselves. Others arrive at the same point of concern via different routes. Edward I. Hall's essay on some of the latent as well as manifest cultural traps is a gem in this respect. The psychoanalytic concerns rooted in more microcosmic contexts are perhaps the most optimistic. Included are contributions by Will, Guntrip, Erwin Singer, Searles, and Schechter. The several Yugoslav Marxist scholars present a balanced and informative discussion of some of the problems of Marxism assessed from the vantage point of history. The essays on "The Possibilities for Radical Humanism" (by Markovic) and "Humanism and Revolution" (by Petrovic) are particularly enlightening.

Fromm in his writings touches on almost every aspect of man's plight, and the diversity among the contributors reflects this fact. The absence of any orienting statements on the part of the editors other than an introductory chapter makes for some disconnectedness in the impact on the reader, who is also left to wonder how some of the contributions link up with Fromm's thought other than at the most general and abstract level of a concern with humanistic values and man's future in the face of the obstacles that beset his path. In fact, most of the essays contain no mention of Fromm.

Its richness as well as diversity makes this a valuable and satisfactory volume. It also suggests that perhaps another kind of volume should follow it, namely, one that attempts to come to grips with the specific and original elements of Fromm's thought from the point of view of the many disciplines into which they have penetrated. The current scene in the social sciences could profit by the more systematic and widespread application of such concepts as the social unconscious, the economic underpinnings of character structure, the role of character versus instinct in man's development, and, finally, some of

Fromm's projections of the prerequisites for a sane society.

MONTAGUE ULLMAN, M.D.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Children and Mental Health Centers: Programs, Problems, Prospects. by Raymond M. Glasscoate, M.A., Michael E. Fishman, M.D., and Meyer Sonus, M.D. Washington, D.C., Joint Information Service of the American Psychiatric Association and the National Association for Mental Health, 1972. 257 pp., \$6.

Ambiguity and confusion have beset the issue of services for children within the community mental health center programs from the time federal funds were made available for planning in 1963. This latest field study of the Joint Information Service places the subject in perspective by reviewing the history of child mental health care, the various reports of children's needs in the United States, and the vicissitudes of programming for children during the last decade of developing community centers.

The report then describes field studies of eight programs serving children and adolescents that were selected for their diversity in terms of component parts, demography, socioeconomic characteristics, ethnicity, auspices, and section of the country. They were chosen from a brief survey of the 206 federally assisted community mental health centers, which in itself elicited provocative information. Of the 70 percent responding, 63 percent indicated that they provided all five essential services for children and 79 percent for adolescents. Partial hospitalization and inpatient services for children were most significantly missing. Adolescents appeared to be served quite well, but children under age four, very little. In general, the responses indicate that the only service in which children and adolescents are served to a greater degree than their proportion of the general population is consultation and education and that in all others they are considerably underserved, while adolescents as a proportion of the total patient load are considerably better served than children in all respects.

The staffing patterns reported are of great interest in considering the nature of the children's programs within the community mental health centers. For instance, 56 percent of the respondents did not indicate a child psychiatrist on the staff, 53 percent did not indicate any kind of physician in the service for children and adolescents, 80 percent did not indicate any teachers, and 65 percent, any nurses. All but 14 percent indicated at least one psychologist, and all but 16 percent indicated at least one social worker. The survey does show progress in providing children's services over the situation reported in 1967, 1965, 1963, and earlier. However, four characteristics of most of the children's centers studied by questionnaire and in depth require careful consideration. It is difficult to determine how much a certain programmatic feature or omission evolved from a philosophical and professional commitment or where the nature of a staff reflects recruitment realities or preferences of the leadership until one has spent a great deal of time delving into his-



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