

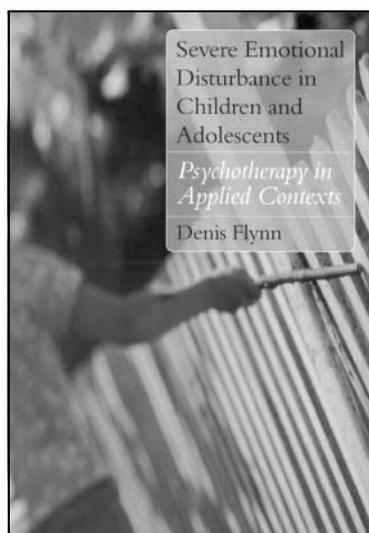


review

Severe Emotional Disturbance in Children and Adolescents: Psychotherapy in Applied Contexts

Denis Flynn
Hove and New York: Brunner-Routledge, 2004, £50 hb, 258 pp., ISBN: 1 583912 11 8

Children and adolescents who are seriously disturbed as a result of abuse, neglect or the experience of multiple family disruptions present major management problems for mental health and social services. Young children may challenge the skills of experienced foster carers, resulting in repeated placement breakdown. Adolescents may present with uncontrollable aggression or life-threatening self-harm. They arouse serious anxiety in those caring for them and appropriate placements are hard to identify and sustain. Without intervention their disturbance escalates and with it the cost of skilled professional input for care, education and therapy in residential settings. These children and adolescents may pose a risk to others, but more often to themselves, e.g. mutilation from repeated self-harm, dependency on alcohol or drugs, sexual exploitation and



early parenthood. Some end up in secure units, prisons or on the streets; others will not survive.

Recent improvement in services to children in local authority care and extension beyond the age of 18 have led to increasing expectations that mental health services will provide treatment or advice about placement in appropriate therapeutic residential units. This book describes psychodynamic work with damaged youngsters in residential settings and may be useful for

professional staff of all disciplines involved in their care.

The author, a Kleinian analyst, has organised a collection of his papers that previously would have reached a child psychotherapeutic readership. They are grouped in three sections – the young child, the child in the family and the adolescent – introduced by a chapter discussing psychotherapeutic approaches in specialist settings and an explanation of psychoanalytical concepts. The author does not quite succeed in his attempt to bridge the gap between his expert therapeutic knowledge and the needs of professional staff struggling with the complex emotional demands of work in such settings. This is because of the preponderance of highly technical psychoanalytical language. However, the clinical material is stimulating and discusses issues such as the rehabilitation of abused children with their parents, adoption, and group work with physically disabled adolescents.

Psychotherapists, child and forensic psychiatrists and other professionals providing supervision or treatment in residential or in-patient settings will certainly appreciate this book.

Alyson Hall Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Emanuel Miller Centre for Families and Children, East London and City Mental Health NHS Trust

forthcoming events

Keele University, Academic Psychiatry Unit would like to announce their **Diploma/MSc in Psychiatry and Mental Health**. The course commences in September 2005. For further information please contact Mrs Tracy Podmore (Tel: 01782 441660, e-mail: t.podmore@keele.ac.uk).

The Association for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy in the NHS (APP) and The Tavistock Clinic would like to announce **War, Survival And Remembrance: Memories And Meaning For Older People**, a 1-day conference taking place on Tuesday 27 September 2005 at the Imperial War Museum, Manchester. The conference programme will also include film presentations being shown as part of the museum's own programme of events, including *Children and War, Why War?* and *Weapons of War?* For further information please contact Annabel Thomas, APP Conference Administrator, PO Box 707, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 0XS (Tel/Fax: 01494 581539, e-mail: app@athomas99.freeserve.co.uk). Alternatively, view

the APP website: <http://www.app-nhs.org.uk/>

Applications are invited for semester one of the **MRCPsych Course** run by University College London. **Part I** takes place on Monday afternoons commencing 5 September 2005 and **Part II** takes place on Tuesday afternoons commencing 6 September 2005. The course has been updated in keeping with the Royal College of Psychiatrists syllabus and includes mock exams, theme specific revision sessions and patient perspectives. For further information and an application form please contact Lydia M. Clinton, Course Administrator (Tel: 020 769 9475, e-mail: mrcpsych@ucl.ac.uk).

The University College London Department of Mental Health Services invites applications for a 2-year, part-time **MSc in Psychiatric Research** course starting in October 2005. The MSc is intended for senior house officers and specialist registrars in psychiatry. It provides a very practical training in the research skills relevant

to psychiatry. All teachers on the course are currently very active as researchers, and student feedback is that the course is enjoyable and highly relevant to developing the skills needed to be an independent researcher. Our aim is to equip graduates to do research at doctoral level and apply for research posts in university departments. The first year consists of workshops and seminars on research skills, held on Monday afternoons. Topics include literature reviews and meta-analysis, design and selection of research instruments, epidemiology, evaluation of interventions, qualitative research methods, biological research and statistics. In the second year students undertake a research project under supervision and submit a dissertation. Early application is advisable as places are limited. For an application and prospectus please contact Lydia M. Clinton, Course Administrator (Tel: 020 7679 9475, e-mail: mrcpsych@ucl.ac.uk). To discuss the course please contact the Course Tutor, Dr Sonia Johnson (s.johnson@ucl.ac.uk).