

https://dspace.org/

[Three reviews]

Rose, Brian Waldron

1974
Johannesburg College of Education
https://hdl.handle.net/10539/27548
Rose, B.W. (1973/1974). [Three reviews]. Symposium: A Journal of Education for Southern Africa, p. 83.

Downloaded from a DSpace repository. https://dspace.org/

tact must be preserved. She must **not** develop a "let's-hate-your-father" regimen. Even if she resents the child's father, she must resist the temptation to influence the child. In fact, periodic contact with the father may be advisable for the child's growth and health. There is sound, well-grounded advice here. Another source of separation that can be traumatic is the boarding school — an institution supported by a few die-hards and by many families wrecked by tragedy and broken marriage. In the UK, where this book was written, 150 000 children are in boarding schools, and 10 per cent of these are under the age of ten, and some even start at the age of 5. The author discusses the advisability of the boarding school, with (perhaps) a little more objectivity than that exhibited by George Orwell.

Parents and teachers may well find this a stimulating and reasonably well-balanced book — useful in a delicate area.



PERSON TO PERSON
Carl Rogers and Barry Stevens. Souvenir Press.

RESOLVING SOCIAL CONFLICTS
Kurt Lewin, ed.: G. W. Lewin. Souvenir Press.

ERIK ERIKSON
Robert Coles. Souvenir Press.

(With acknowledgements to the RDM.)

Technological advance benefits Man in some areas and denies his humanity in others. In an era of immense technological development such as our own, it is the behavioural scientist who has the responsibility for re-stating human values, and few have done so more persuasively than Carl Rogers.

Concerned with the way in which people related to each other, Rogers (using an entirely different terminology has emphasised the "Thou-ness" of each person, as Martin Buber would put it. Ultimately, as in counselling, Rogers demands "unconditional positive regard".

Perhaps his most notable contribution to current behavioural science has been in his theory of "non-directive counselling." Everyone of us sooner or later is faced with a person who brings a problem to us. Maybe in the family, maybe a friend or someone on an office staff. And the amateur is tremendously tempted to give advice: "Well, if I were in your shoes, I would . . ."

The only advice that people usually accept is that which agrees with their own intentions anyway. The Rogerian technique, therefore, consists in NOT giving **direct advice** at all, but helping the "client" to think through his own problem.

"Person to Person" centres round seven papers, all of which attempt to show that the human being has a subjective value, a value as a person that is inalienable. He is, to quote Barry Stevens, "Not a machine, not an object, not a pawn."

This is an exciting book, not merely for the clinician and the counsellor, but for the intelligent general reader as well. Barry Stevens has done a fine work in drawing together a coherent statement of the Rogerian approach.

* * *

Few behavioural scientists of the stature of Kurt Lewin have achieved such distinction in their profession on such meagre publications. Of course, such papers as his collaborative work with Lippitt and White on patterns of aggressive behaviour have become classic. But many of those earlier writings were becoming increasingly difficult to obtain as offprints from journals, and by the time of his death in 1947 he had not published a complete text of his field theory approach.

His wife, Gertrud Lewin, collected his more significant papers in 1948, edited and presented them as selected papers on group dynamics.

Kurt Lewin had a distinguished civilian and academic career. He saw active service with the German Army in 1914, later became Professor of Psychology at the University of Berlin, and in 1932 moved over to America; from which vantage point he watched with growing anciety the development of National Socialism.

As an behavioural scientist, he became increasingly concerned to understand the dynamics that led a decent kindly people to accept dictatorship. Much of his experimental work, and many of his monographs and professional articles were concerned with probes into this complex area.

The present book opens with Lewin posing the problem of why German and American children are different in personality. Lewin contended that the German culture "contained" children more completely than did the American, there was less room for choice, for problem solving, more living by regulation — and much more homogeneity.

It also contains studies of industrial conflict, the self-hatred of Jews and the problem of ethnic minorities. It remains startlingly contemporary a quarter-of-a-century after its original appearance.

* * *

Erik Erikson is wellknown to everyone who has studied psychotherapy. But his interests have created an audience far wider. His adventures into biography have included studies of Mahatma Gandhi, and of Martin Luther, books that have made a tremendous impact on thoughtful readers.

Trained in psychoanalysis by Anna Freud, daughter of the founder of the technique, Erikson made important contributions to psychiatric theory in his concept of **identity crisis.** Most adults are accustomed to thinking that children and adolescents go through "stages" . . . somehow assuming that as one turns 21 one emerges into the "straight", with no more stages to "bug" one. But as Erikson outlined man's development, release from one stage meant entry into the next — as long as one was alive.

More than any other major theorist Erikson has helped modern clinicians to realise that it is not just the child but the human being **throughout** life who passes from one developmental stage to another — an insight that can be of tremendous significance to people engaged in marriage counselling or some other specialised "caring activity".

As Anna Freud once pointed out, psychoanalysis began with unconventional people — the dreamers. Perhaps in this delightful humane scholar, we have the last of the great "dreamers" of psychoanalysis.