

## BOOK REVIEWS

### CHILDHOOD SHOWS THE MAN

#### The Development of Sex Differences

Edited by Eleanor Maccoby. (Stanford Studies in Psychology.) Pp. 351. (London: Tavistock Publications, Ltd., 1967.) 60s. net.

THIS series of articles on the development and learning of sex differences from biological (Hamburg and Lunde), developmental (Kohlberg), learning (Mischel), sociological (Dornbusch) and anthropological points of view (D'Andrade) must be counted the most comprehensive review of this subject so far. Besides the review articles, the book contains an extensive annotated bibliography (Oetzel) and a summary of the principal findings for sex differences in aggression, dependency, achievement, conformity, nurturance, anxiety, cognition, creativity, morality, sex typing and socialization. The later findings were the subject of study for a work group composed of the foregoing members and sponsored by the Social Science Research Council during the years 1962-64.

The book itself is in the tradition of earlier reviews by Anastasia (1949) and Terman and Tyler (1954), but, unlike those earlier more descriptive works, the present reviews emphasize causal relations. Considered in historical perspective, some interesting reversals of roles have occurred in the explanatory stances of the different disciplines. Biological data were once introduced to support the generality of sex differences, while ethnographic material of relativistic implication was used to show that almost any role can be learned regardless of innate physical differences. In this volume, however, biology is most notably represented by research on sex hormones which highlights the role that biological factors can play in accounting for individual differences in sex role learning. For example, testosterone injected into pregnant monkeys produces female pseudohermaphroditic offspring who engage in masculinized play activity. The anthropological materials by contrast are dominated in this review by data from the cross-cultural approach which emphasizes cultural universals. We are told that in most cultures men do the hunting, herding, and fighting; and women carry the water, cook, and gather fuel, because the men are stronger and faster and the women may be pregnant or breast feeding.

Even if the classic position of genetic and environmental extremes has in this one respect suffered something of a reversal, the earlier contrast still persists at other levels. New material from the study of primates shows sex differences in infant play (males are more aggressive and mount more; females groom more and show more interest in infants) and seems to imply that similar differences may exist universally between human infants. On the other hand, the study of psychosexual deviates who have been reared to a sex role which contradicts their external genitalia indicates that they can come to terms with their paradoxical appearance. This is a finding which belies the importance of the innate universals. Or, if we move within our own particular society, the same contrast is reproduced in the form of maturational versus learning explanations for sex differences. In this volume the first is represented by Kohlberg's very original synthesis of Freudian and Piagetian concepts and the second by Mischel's skilful apology for the relevance of social learning principles. For Kohlberg, children in general first become aware of their gender role and then actively select a repertoire of behaviour to fit this original and

primitive psychosexual schema. For Mischel, on the other hand, certain of the child's behaviour is differentially reinforced and this in due course forms the basis of his individual notion of sex role identity.

These examples serve to highlight the predominant feature of this volume—namely, that although the emphasis is causal, the outcome is actually dispersive. After making a bow in the direction of the generalization that biological, social and psychological factors are interwoven, each investigator in fact goes his own way doing his best to demonstrate the causal effectiveness of one particular class of mediators. While the volume as a whole contains many most interesting examples of the interaction of various classes of variables, there is really no very effective attempt at synthesis. Maccoby, for example, shows the way in which the same behavioural outcomes can be mediated by quite varied personality traits. Thus, intellectuality in men is accompanied by a somewhat feminine personality profile, while in women it is accompanied by a masculine profile. The various contrasts we have illustrated here show, however, that we require some comprehensive theory of the way in which one can reconcile that sort of finding with the exceptional cases, for example, where intellectuality is sustained by a more traditional male or female posture as it often is.

Perhaps it is in order to suggest that the arrays of mediators dealt with by the investigators in this volume are predisposing but seldom determinative of sex role characteristics. The phenomenology of sex role differences (strikingly missing from this volume) apparently permits the individual person to collect behind his particular self-definition one of many combinations of characteristics from many alternatives. Dornbusch's article makes it clear that the structure of sex roles in modern society has become more function-free than ever before in human history, illustrated by the paradox that the men discussed in the anthropological section by D'Andrade are traditional hunters and fighters and those discussed by Maccoby are intellectuals. What this must mean, causally speaking, is that sex role definitions are linked less and less strongly to those biological and institutional variables which were once their main sustenance. Research into the sex role which therefore confines itself to reductive causal analysis (as do all articles in this volume except that by Kohlberg) becomes historically increasingly anachronistic as the role of the individual's own self-definition of his sex role is progressively increased. In addition, unidisciplinary analyses which predominate in this volume do not empower us to understand the character of the interactions between biological, sociological and psychological variables which, all the present investigators agree, is the way in which the sex role really develops.

BRIAN SUTTON-SMITH

### TESTICULAR ENDOCRINOLOGY

#### Endocrinology of the Testis

Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Maeve O'Connor. (Ciba Foundation Colloquia on Endocrinology, Vol. 16.) Pp. xiii + 331. (London: J. and A. Churchill, Ltd., 1967.) 60s.

THIS volume is the last in the distinguished series of colloquia on endocrinology held by the Ciba Foundation. It also happens to be the first to cover testicular endocrinology in detail. The conference, held in May 1966, considered recent advances in this area from many different points of view. Taken together, the fifteen papers give a vivid picture of the immense progress made in the past few years, as well as the problems besetting attempts at better understanding.

Although methodology is not described in great detail, many papers present results derived from the application of the intricate and rewarding isotopic tracer techniques