reinforces his own subtle understanding and he does not hesitate to join in the battle. Social issues are not baulked and he demands the right of a woman to take full responsibility for her own body and its sexual relations. She should practice birth control as she wishes, and more than this, he would allow medical abortion for social as well as medical reasons and here speaks with the authority of a doctor authorised to give the second opinion which permits abortion in Switzerland. A logical sequel is that he would remove the handicaps from the illegitimate child and help unmarried mothers to keep their babies if they so wish.

These courageous statements should give rise to discussion and appropriate action. The book is an unusual combination of scientific and psychological truth and social challenge. Each one of us has to deal with sexual problems, both as an individual and as a member of society. Fears, prejudice, hypocrisy, ignorance, prevail; how are we to take up our responsibilities?

ROBINA S. ADDIS.

Parents and Children. By C. W. Valentine. Methuen. 10/6.

This is a vigorous and controversial book. Professor Valentine asserts that "plain common sense—the acquisition of knowledge of the conduct and experience of human beings which comes from a wide experience of life" is a useful asset to the psychologist. He has a poor opinion of the Oedipus Complex, listing it in the Index, as "Oedipus Complex (supposed)." He believes in the individuality of each child, and even suggests that some can benefit from corporal punishment.

The book covers a very wide field—general psychology, child development, intelligence tests, and abilities. It is hardly suitable for the parent who simply wants straightforward elementary advice on child management, but the educated parent who wishes a background of theory as well as practice, should find in it both enjoyment and profit.

Psychology in the Nursery School. By Nellie Wolffheim. Gerald Duckworth. 9/.

This book has been written by an ardent Freudian. The word "Psychoanalytical" is scattered over every page. Some very ordinary actions of the nursery school age are distorted by this obsession, especially in the chapter on "Erotically Tinged Friendships." To give one example. A girl is cutting off a boy's hair with scissors. "The passive behaviour of the boy showed he was sacrificing his masculinity for the sake of her love."

There is much that is sound and helpful in this book, though little that is new. The average teacher is, I think, likely to be baffled by so many Freudian terms, even though a glossary is given. The clumsy translation further detracts from its usefulness.