

There are details of play and educational programmes, of equipment and examples of diagrams of the body which are used for explaining what happens during treatment. A pamphlet giving information to parents is included, with full permission for reproduction by other hospitals. Each reader is likely to suggest modifications for his own needs, but this is an attractive and practical book and is warmly recommended.

J. H. K.

YOU AND YOUR DAUGHTER. By Rose Hacker. (*Four Square Books, 1964, 3s.*)

The question that leaps to mind on reading Rose Hacker's book is—at what relationship is she aiming? If it is young “intelligent” parents, one cannot help feeling they will have read a very great deal of what Mrs. Hacker has to say already in one or other of Dr. Spock's three excellent books. There can be little doubt that she covers much the same ground as he does, and he is very widely read indeed by this particular group.

Alternatively, she may intend her book for the not quite so “with-it”, and one rather suspects this from her explanations, in brackets, of relatively simple technicalities. If this is so, then the book would undoubtedly be helpful. But would it be read by this type of parent?

A great deal of the book is sound, but one has the feeling all the way through that Mrs. Hacker expects the parents of daughters to be positive saints and extremely uninhibited into the bargain.

Imagine the embarrassment of Mama as three-year-old daughter cheerfully picked up at a coffee party that she saw her Daddy's penis in the bath this morning. Mrs. Hacker believes that the correct words for parts of the body should be taught from the start, and maybe she is right; but what ordinary parent could take it? Parents are not so uninhibited as Mrs. Hacker obviously wants us to be, and on that very point one can't help but feel that the advice for treatment of teenage daughters is greatly idealised. Surely, most human beings have feelings of constraint about sex as a part of their nature, and the glib way in which we are told to discuss it with our daughters is far, far easier said than done.

Finally, a word of total disagreement. Slapping your daughter is “cowardly and stupid” says Rose Hacker; she'll feel you no longer love her. To quote Dr. Spock, it is less poisonous to spank than express a lengthy disapproval. Unfortunately, we parents must let off steam sometimes, and a more realistic attitude to this human frailty would have made Mrs. Hacker's book far more convincing—and acceptable. **Dinah Lamp**

HELP WITH SEX PROBLEMS IN MARRIAGE. (*National Marriage Guidance Council, 1964, 2s. 6d.*)

So much has been written on these problems that the appearance of yet another pamphlet must prompt the question to any reviewer as to why and for whom it was written and whether it fulfils its purpose.

Although the authors give no reason why it was written, the colossal amount of ignorance still prevalent among lay-men (and some doctors) concerning marital adjustments make it seem right that the Marriage Guidance Council should have its own booklet for its special clients. As to the readership, the context indicates that it is for young couples still in love, who are puzzled because there is something lacking in their physical enjoyment of each other but may not be sure exactly what. It is indeed refreshing to find a book on sex which so many times emphasises love as the basis of marriage—so many books on this subject seem to be written rather like the technical handbooks published for motor cars, which describe the workings of the engine quite well, but omit any mention of the driver as a source of difficulties.

This booklet in many respects fulfils its objectives and gives a loving couple a basis through which they can recognise the nature of their problems and, more importantly, what it is that may still be lacking in their marriage.