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***Taking it Lying Down: Sexuality and Teenage Motherhood.* By Hudson Frances & Ineichen Bernard. Pp. 234. (Macmillan, 1991.) £35.00 (hardback); £9.99 (paperback).**

Jenny Kitzinger

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plines. It comprises a sample of comparatively short extracts, dealing with every aspect of deafness and hearing impairment.

Thus sections cover what is variously known as the deaf community and deaf culture; psychological perspectives; audiology; education; sign language; social welfare; and cultural representation. Within each section, contrasting extracts are presented, which cover the often contentious debates within the field. Different discourses defining deafness are brought together, including, crucially, the views of deaf people themselves. The editorial perspective takes the side of those viewing the deaf as a cultural minority, based on a shared language, rather than as disabled people, or people with a (pathological) impairment. Thus the collection also has a historical dimension, for example in the accounts of Martha's Vineyard, and the historic Milan Congress, where the oral method of communication triumphed over sign language.

The field of disability has become highly politicised in the last decade, and this book reflects this development, in the stress on an autonomous deaf community, and the importance of deafness as an identity: to the extent that "'deaf" is not a label of deafness as much as a label of identity with other Deaf people', in Carol Padden's words. Language is central to this understanding, and at the core of this collection: in the conflicts over the linguistic status of sign; over oralism as opposed to sign as opposed to total communication as a teaching method; over integrated versus specialised educational provision; and in the campaigns to promote the teaching of sign, and the training of sign teachers and interpreters.

There is a great deal to welcome here: the vast range of extracts, well referenced, and the wealth of information on all aspects of the subject. Perhaps the editors should have been slightly more restrictive in coverage, and given somewhat longer passages. On the other hand, the recent debate over cochlear implants seems too important to have been excluded. And it needs to be pointed out that the focus of the collection as a whole is on native users of sign, rather than those people who become deaf or hard of hearing as a result of the ageing process, or of some accident or illness later in life. Given these reservations, this collection will be invaluable to all those interested in contemporary understandings of deafness.

TOM SHAKESPEARE

**Taking it Lying Down: Sexuality and Teenage Motherhood.** By Frances Hudson & Bernard Ineichen. Pp. 234. (Macmillan, 1991.) £35.00 (hardback); £9.99 (paperback).

Frances Hudson is headteacher at a Unit for Schoolgirl Mothers, and Bernard Ineichen is a sociologist—between them they have produced an accessible book about teenage motherhood, succinctly presenting key information and providing pointers for policy recommendations. The book summarises statistics on pregnancy, abortion and marriage among teenagers across different countries and discusses how young people learn about sex, reproduction and contraception, as well as addressing young women's early experiences of motherhood.

The emphasis is on synthesising previous research rather than exploring contradictions and some important sociological perspectives are not addressed

(e.g. Macintyre's work on unmarried mothers and the social construction of motherhood) [Macintyre, S. 1977, *Single and Pregnant*, Croom Helm]. At times the authors seem somewhat uncritical of existing work; for instance, they summarise, without comment, research suggesting that 'the family already has the pathology and is programmed for a relationship disaster, while the daughter who becomes pregnant and decides to keep the baby is the carrier. The daughter's behaviour is a symptom of the family disease' (p. 61).

The book as a whole, however, presents a good mix of research and quotations from young people themselves and includes important information about their life-styles and attitudes. The authors foreground the social conditions facing teenagers today (the poverty trap, lack of child care provision, etc.) and emphasise that, in spite of such disadvantages, 'many young mothers create happy and loving family lives'. They focus on the need to provide both preventive and supportive services and they stress that 'there are two separate aspects to the whole issue of teenage pregnancy. First, to effect pregnancy prevention by encouraging responsibility in relationships and recognition of choices and the importance of good decision making for the future. And secondly, to offer effective and sufficient support to the young mother and her child, in order that they have the best start possible in the circumstances' (p. 176).

JENNY KITZINGER

**Anthropology and Nursing.** By P. Holden & J. Littlewood. Pp. 228. (Routledge, London, 1991.) £10.00.

The editors in their introduction to this volume make it clear that this is an anthropology of nursing and not an anthropology for nursing book. This distinction is reminiscent of the one made by Strauss (1957) between sociology in medicine and sociology of medicine. On Strauss's distinction sociology in medicine takes as its subject matter those areas of practice which practitioners would themselves offer as matters for study. Whereas the sociology of medicine treats medicine, its practice and indeed medicine's own perspective on the work as matters for study. This distinction holds well for anthropology and nursing.

This book works well as an anthropology of nursing work, not least because the editors recognise the dangers that lie in producing the other kind of book. They describe the 'transcultural movement' that has established itself in nursing's academy. A movement which involves 'the development of what are referred to as "transcultural" theories and the movement has become the body which defines what constitutes specific cultures and the implications of this for treatment'. Not least of the dangers is the potential that an 'applied' kind of approach has for leading to a check-list approach to culture which can then provide nurses with a means of labelling and so controlling patients. This insight into what might otherwise go unquestioned as a sub-discipline within nursing is but one of the many scattered through this work.

The book contains an interesting collection of papers, none of which I can do justice to in the space of this review. Some of the papers are concerned with particular cultures, nursing in India, nursing in Japan and a chapter concerned with