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Children in Poverty. Aletha C. Huston

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that social work is an adaptable profession and that its involvement of different fields of endeavor has relevance to practitioners in different national settings.

Aletha C. Huston (Ed.), *Children in Poverty*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994. \$19.95 papercover.

It is now widely known that the proportion of children in poverty increased steadily during the 1980s. The problem of child poverty has been dramatized by numerous advocacy groups and it is now widely reported in the media. However, while many deplore the situation, there is little agreement about what should be done about it. In recent welfare reform discussions, many have argued that the solution to the poverty problem can be found in promoting parental responsibility, hard work and self-sufficiency. However, the authors of this book are critical of simple, rhetorical answers to pressing social problems such as child poverty. Slogans, they point out, do little except meet political objectives and foster complacency. They argue that a variety of policy options are needed if the problem of poverty among children is to be addressed in meaningful ways. These policy options involve health care, income support, child care, early childhood education, parental support (particularly for adolescent mothers) and economic programs.

The book is based on a conference held at the University of Kansas in June 1988 and like most publications emanating from conferences, it lacks coherence and structure. Nevertheless, the different articles touch on some important issues and Huston's concluding chapter offers a useful summary of the material. It also identifies key areas in which future policy involvement is needed. Current events in Washington do not, however, auger well for her hope that the solutions proposed in the book will be implemented.

Anne Connor and Stewart Black (Ed.), *Performance Review and Quality in Social Care*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 1994. \$39.50 hardcover. (Available from Taylor and Francis, 1900 Frost Road, Bristol, PA 19007-1598)

Social service programs are under greater pressure than ever before to demonstrate their effectiveness. Taxpayers and