Leaving Home Before Marriage: Ethnicity, Familism and Generational Relationships. Francis K. Goldscheider and Calvin Goldscheider.

of hospices has already informed developments in the United States. As the Clinton health care reforms are currently being debated, Clark's book will be of particular relevance to those engaged in this important field of service.

Brian Corby. *Child Abuse: Towards a Knowledge Base*. Buckingham, England: Open University Press, 1993. $32.50 papercover. (Distributed in the United States by Taylor and Francis, 1900 Frost Road, Bristol, PA 19007).

The problem of child abuse has generated a great deal of research in recent times and there is a need to draw the findings of this research together. Corby has succeeded admirably in doing so. His book covers important topics such as the definition of child abuse, the history of child abuse, etiology, the consequences of abuse and the nature of the abuser. A final chapter summarizes the limited research which has been undertaken into child protective social work services.

This is a well written, comprehensive and informative book. Although dealing primarily with developments in England, extensive references are also made to research findings in the United States. The book is not only of value to American readers who are interested in developments in Britain, but it effectively summarizes key findings pertaining to this country as well.

Frances K. Goldscheider and Calvin Goldscheider. *Leaving Home Before Marriage: Ethnicity, Familism and Generational Relationships*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1993. $27.50 hardcover.

The Goldscheiders are sociologists at Brown University who have sought to investigate the decisions that young people and their families make about leaving the parental home. The Goldscheider's research findings are based on studies of some 60,000 young people who were tracked for six years after completing their high school education. In addition to studying the children, data about the parents and their attitudes were also collected.

While the research revealed complex patterns which are difficult to summarize, the study found that economic, cultural and religious factors played a significant role in determining when young people leave home. Economic independence was

a major determinant of independence as was culture. While Hispanic-Americans and Asian Americans seldom left home before marriage, this was not the case among white or African-Americans. Similarly, while fundamentalist protestants were unlikely to leave home, the vast majority of Jewish-American young people left home before marriage.

The study investigated many other aspects of young peoples' decisions such as the consequences of leaving home at an early age, the reactions of parents, the economic costs of independent living and the role of education in facilitating home leaving. As the authors suggest, the study offers useful insights which can help parents and their children cope more effectively with separation. It also offers useful insights into contemporary family dynamics and will be of interest to all sociologists studying the family today.

Wilbur J. Scott. *The Politics of Readjustment: Vietnam Veterans Since the War*. Hawthorne, NY: Aldine de Gruyter, 1993. $47.95 hardcover, $23.95 papercover.

Wilbur Scott is a sociologist at the University of Oklahoma who, as a Vietnam veteran himself, has a special interest in tracing the emergence of the Vietnam veteran's movement since the 1970s. Using sociological insights derived from the theory of social movements and the constructivst perspective, he shows how Veterans emerged from the demoralization of defeat to create an effective social movement which succeeded in having post-traumatic stress disorder included in the American Psychiatric Association's diagnostic manual, built the National Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, and began successfully to litigate on the damage caused through the use of Agent Orange by the military during the war.

Scott's book makes fascinating reading not only from a sociological perspective but from the way he tells his story. His own involvement in his subject matter informs the book and offers an incisive commentary on the lives of those who were once pushed to the margins of American society. For the social scientist, his narrative elucidates theory and demonstrates how theoretical perspectives enhance descriptive accounts.