The primary purpose of this book is to explore the nature of two forms of sexual behaviour which represent the majority of sexual offences coming to the attention of the courts. The emphasis is less on the psychological dynamics of individual offenders than on the social significance of the deviant behaviour. The material presented emerged from empirical study and research on cases referred to a psychiatric clinic, which was specifically established to assist the courts in the assessment and treatment of offenders.

The choice of exhibitionism and pedophilia was made on purely quantitative grounds, and quantitative considerations remained a leading factor throughout the study. The bizarre and exotic phenomena of sexual behaviour too frequently overshadow the far greater amount of human misery which can be observed daily in our lower courts. All too often the problems of the sexual offender are seen in terms of isolated but highly publicized cases of atrocities, with the result that the minor sex offender (who is by far in the majority) tends to be seen as a potential fiend and maniac. In the absence of a clear picture of the natural history of the various sexual deviations and resulting offences, predictions of the subsequent behaviour of an offender are at best tenuous.

The organization of the material presented major difficulties. In reviewing the literature on pedophilia and exhibitionism, we found no systematic account of pedophilia, and only one book specifically devoted to exhibitionism (Rickles 1950) which deals mainly with clinical considerations. It therefore became necessary to expand our own researches into a handbook on the sexual offences arising out of the two deviations. Incorporating comparative data from the literature posed many problems because of the diversity of definitions, samples, and classifications used in various studies. Completeness has only been attempted in regard to actual data and not in regard to opinions and interpretation; we realize this approach may have resulted in a loss of clarity in some instances.
Being a handbook, the account is not directed to any specific discipline or profession dealing with sexual offenders. Depending on the kind of information for which the reader is looking, various chapters may prove of greater or less interest. The account of both deviations follows approximately the same structure, which should facilitate cross references. The usefulness of any data, however, will depend on some familiarity with the discussion on definitions and the structure of the model we adopted.

We hope that the information contained in this volume will not only assist the medical and social scientist, the judiciary, law enforcement and rehabilitation agencies but will also contribute to public enlightenment and legislative improvements.

It is unavoidable in an undertaking such as this that, in spite of a considerable amount of effort, the validity of various accounts will be uneven and a number of lacunae will remain. It is our hope that further research will fill the gaps which we are conscious of in this book. In the continuing process of study one must start at some point to consolidate what has been gained and to share it, in the belief that others will derive benefits even though the last word has not been spoken.

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