

It has been suggested that there are three elements which are either explicit or implied in all systems of psychotherapy, counselling or caring :

- i a theory of personality
- ii a social philosophy concerning the relationships of individuals to society
- iii a body of therapeutic skills which influence behaviour (7)

I am not sure that this is an adequate analysis. All too often the social philosophy is not a philosophy at all, but an administrative bureaucratic arrangement, with the intention of fitting people into socially, politically, economically and indeed religiously convenient niches.

Like the octopus its tendrils tend to reach out and enfold the theory of personality and the approach to therapy. What is needed is a psychology of the psychology of child care<sup>(8)</sup> a philosophy or theology of care, whereby fundamental questions are asked and faced. This is an ongoing process and no one group, school or institution has the complete answer. It is my belief also, that the main focus should be on the adults rather than the children.

Child Care is essentially about the quality of relationships between the adults. It is my belief that no matter the sort of physical set-up of the house nor the theoretical concepts of therapy, unless the emotional, relational and open communication atmosphere is of the highest possible order, there will be inept, inadequate and even damaging care given.

" The child has only the potential for becoming human, he must needs have a human environment to do so." ( 9 )

and that environment is essentially human only in terms of the adults who create and maintain it.