

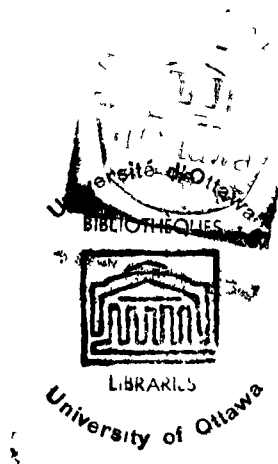
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BIOLOGICAL AND FOSTER MOTHERS
ON THE D.D.T.

by Gertruda Rosenberg

Thesis presented to the Faculty of
Psychology and Education of the
University of Ottawa as partial
fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of Master of Arts



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CURRICULUM STUDIORUM

Gertruda Rosenberg R.N. was born June 17, 1922, in Kossow, Poland. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Ottawa in May 1962.

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INTRODUCTION

In broad terms this investigation falls into the area of multiproblem families. It has been said¹ that these families take from society much more than they contribute. They are characterized by a temperamental instability which expresses itself in fickleness, irresponsibility, improvidence and lack of discipline in the home. These characteristics are often present in either or both parents, but commonly in the mother. Furthermore, it is contended that these families fail to respond to the efforts of social and health agencies to rehabilitate them². Moreover, they appear to transmit the same behaviour pattern from one generation to another. Among the many problems with which these families are ridden, that of emotional and physical neglect of their children is commonplace.

As a consequence of this general behaviour pattern the question of foster home placement for the children is an ever pending issue. Often the situation is such that one or more of the children are placed in a foster home by court order (Appendix 1).

1 John Bowlby, Child Care and Growth of Love, Baltimore, Penguin Books, 1963, p. 89.

2 Ibid., P. 90.

Relevant to this study is a pattern of family dynamics in which children are rejected by their mothers in a physical and emotional sense.

In approaching such research more specifically, one requires the cooperation of a social agency, where the actual provision of foster homes takes place.

In dealing with the phenomenon of rejection, the social agency removes the child from his biological parent(s). Continuation of this pathological relationship is thought to stunt the child's development. In choosing a foster home, the child is matched to a particular one which the social agency hopefully expects will facilitate his physical and emotional growth.

The methods used to date are based on casework studies and evaluation of a priori criteria with which the foster home must comply. However, despite the diligence with which these criteria are applied, their validity is thrown into grave doubt when one becomes aware of the great numbers of children who in actual fact do not profit from placement, although it may seem to be satisfactory in terms of the smooth foster child - foster home relationship.

It is evident that comprehensive psychological research into the dynamics of both the family from which the child came and the dynamics of the family in which he is placed is needed.

To this writer's knowledge, to date no such research has been carried out within the field of psychology.

It is the purpose of this study to explore one segment of the total problem, namely: by means of the Differential Diagnostic Technique, from hereon referred to as the D.D.T., to compare the personality dynamics of the biological and successful foster mothers of the same children. The biological mother in this study is defined as the person who gave birth to the child and was in charge of him until she was ordered by the court to relinquish his custody. A successful foster mother is defined as one who succeeded in establishing a continuous satisfactory relationship with her foster child to the extent that the agencies involved were satisfied.

In the review of the literature (Chapter I of this study), studies which have extended our knowledge of the significance of the relationship between a child's growth to maturity and his mother's behaviour pattern are presented and the practical justification of the present research prior to the statement of the general hypothesis to be tested is given.

The second chapter presents the experimental design, describing the population sample, the research tool used and its administration in this study, scoring of the test performance, statistical procedures involved in the analysis of the data, and the statement of the statistical hypothesis.

Chapter III contains the results of the statistical treatment of the data in preparation for their discussion.

The fourth chapter contains a discussion of the research tool's reliability and a comparison of the test results of the biological mothers to those of the successful foster mothers. Following this, is a section summarising the research, stating the conclusions reached, and suggesting further research.

CHAPTER I

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

This chapter reviews the literature relevant to the study in two sections: the mother-child relationship as a determinant of behaviour patterns and the mutability of such patterns. The summary and general hypothesis are then presented briefly.

1. Mother-Child Relationships as Determinants of Behaviour Patterns.

A survey of the literature yields many controversial opinions about the significance of the relationship between a child's psychological growth and his mother's behaviour pattern. Of particular relevance to the present study are data which cast light on the psychological development of children who are in foster care, the personality make-up of the biological mother, the personality make-up of the successful foster mother, and the relationship between the two as determinants in the perpetuation of particular behaviour patterns.

Bowlby¹, in his review of the literature with regards to the effects of deprivation, concludes that the lack of any

¹ J. Bowlby, "Maternal Care and Mental Health", in the World Health Organization Monograph Series, No. 2, issue of 1952, p. 47.

opportunity for forming an attachment to a mother figure during the first three years of life produces an affectionless and psychopathic character. He supports his conclusion with references to the works of Powdermaker,² Bender,³ Lowrey,⁴ and Goldfarb.⁵ Bowlby⁶ further states that a child who met with maternal deprivation during his formative years ultimately will become a depriving parent.

Cameron⁷ essentially agrees with the importance of early behavioural trends for later personality organization. He asserts that habitual modes of behaviour, once established sensitize the child to certain aspects of his experience and dull him to others. When the child enters new surroundings

2 F. Powdermaker, H.T. Lewis, and G. Touraine, "Psychopathology and Treatment of Delinquent Girls", in American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, Vol. 7, January 1937, p. 58-71.

3 L. Bender, "Psychopathic Behaviour Disorders in Children", in Handbook of Correctional Psychology, R.M. Lindner, and R.V. Seliger Editors, New York, Philosophical Library, 1947, 360 p.

4 L.G. Lowrey, "Personality Distortion and Early Institutional Care", in American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, Vol. 10, 1940, p. 576-594.

5 W. Goldfarb, "Infant Rearing as a Factor in Foster Home Replacement", in American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, Vol. 14, January 1944, p. 162-166.

6 John Bowlby, Child Care and Growth of Love, Op. Cit., p. 90.

7 Norman Cameron, The Psychology of Behavior Disorders, Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1947, p. 30.

and meets new people, he is more ready to respond in one direction than in another and his readiness itself acts selectively, that is, it is self-perpetuating. This tendency to use adjustive techniques learned in the home is most evident in the child's interpersonal relationships with his peers. Cameron, referring to Levy's⁸ study, demonstrates how children overtrained in one kind of strategy and with no other method accessible to them encountered constant failure with their peers. He explains the phenomenon as follows:

It is fundamentally no different from the study of the behavioural misuse of a fine razor blade to sharpen pencils, or an axe to open a tin can, when either is dangerous and may be known to have previously caused serious harm.

Littner¹⁰ purports the same viewpoint, which is based on experience with foster home placements of neglected children. He suggests that a foster child who brings with him a specific pattern of behaviour into his new situation tries to gain the foster mother's unwitting cooperation in

8 David Levy, Maternal Overprotection, New York, Columbia University Press, 1943, p. ix-417, cited in Norman Cameron, Op. Cit., p. 29.

9 Norman Cameron, Op. Cit., p. 185.

10 Ner Littner, "The Child's Need to Repeat his Past - Some Implications for Placement", in Changing Needs and Practices in Child Welfare, New York, Child Welfare League of America, 1962, p. 2-22.

a specific pattern of interaction, by causing her to experience the emotions which will move him in the desired direction: "It is as if the child is able to find the right key to touch in the organ of the adult's feelings"¹¹. In this way, the child tries to recreate his past which, although injurious to him, is the only reality he knows. In other words, the child with specific needs looks for gratification of these needs, which can, in Levy's terms, "unfortunately be satisfied only by such a mother or a replica of her"¹².

In reply to the specific question: how does a depriving mother influence the child's future development, one has little to go on except for historical data with reference to the children's past. Remarkably few investigators have been concerned with mothers as persons who have particular tasks and particular conflicts. Earliest research in maternal practices has mainly been the work of anthropologists. Apparently there has been greater readiness to take a direct look at mothers in places remote from our culture than at mothers close by. Other investigators who have concerned themselves with mothers, did so with the

11 Ner Littner, Ibid., p. 10.

12 David Levy, Op. Cit., cited in Norman Cameron, Op. Cit., p. 29.

help of questionnaires and interviews. At best they obtained historical data of dubious quality, due to the probable discrepancy between what persons report about their attitudes and behaviour, and their actual behaviour.

Spitz¹³, in contrast to most researchers, reports results of direct observations conducted in a controlled setting. He maintains that:

The infant's actions either originate in the actions of the mother and then are extending them; or the situation may be reversed: the infant's actions trigger the mother's actions, which will then continue and complete the infant's actions¹⁴.

This interaction between mother and child is based on affective exchange and is the basis of the individual's later emotional and social development. Furthermore, he maintains that the mother's behaviour acts as a stimulus and precipitates a response in the infant, even when her action is not necessarily related to him. He attributes this particular sensitivity to the special dyadic relationship which exists between mother and child where the mother is the child's first human partner. The infant strives toward his partner with increasing directedness which

13 René A. Spitz, The First Year of Life: A Psychoanalytic Study of Normal and Deviant Development of Object Relations, New York, International Universities Press, 1965, p. vii-394.

14 Ibid., p. 263.

develops in accordance with the mother's reaction to his actions:

. . . Success increases his pleasure, and he will repeat and ultimately master success specific behavior. On the other hand he will abandon actions which lead regularly to failure¹⁵.

Further, he states¹⁶ that where improper mother-child relations prevail, the mother is incapable of offering her child a normal relationship. He attributes this to her own personality structure, which compels her to disturb the normal relationship.

The biological mothers in this study are depriving mothers in the sense that they, during the period in which the children resided with them, demonstrated insufficiency of care given and resultant insufficiency of interaction both in the physical and psychological dimensions.

Whereas in normal circumstances the child's first interactions with his mother create an expectancy pattern and repetition of success producing behaviour, this becomes an impossible task with a depriving mother. The child has no opportunity to form in his memory the image of a love object to-be, since she does not remain for him identical with herself in space and time.

15 Ibid., p. 123.

16 Ibid., p. 207.

Therefore: ". . . each single object presentation will have to be approached on a trial and error basis, as an experiment, as an adventure, as a peril".¹⁷ The depriving mother becomes neither an inner certainty nor an outer predictability. Erikson¹⁸ describes the presence of these two qualities in the child as basic trust, a rudiment of ego identity:

Mothers, I think create a sense of trust in their children by that kind administration which in its quality combines sensitive care of the baby's individual needs and a firm sense of personal trustworthiness within the trusted framework of their culture's life-style.¹⁹

In the absence of these qualities, the children establish a behaviour pattern which, according to Herstein²⁰ who bases his views on experience with foster placements, is characterized by a lasting distrust of parents and adult caretakers; further they are unable to respond to others and show marked shallowness of affect; they are defective in their ability to identify positively with community and family values; eventually, these children are unable to control or chanalize constructively the hostile and sexual impulses which have been excessively heightened by deprivation.

17 Ibid., p. 245.

18 Erik H. Erikson, Childhood and Society, New York, W.W. Norton and Co., 1950, p. 219.

19 Ibid., p. 221.

20 Norman Herstein, "The Replacement of Children from Foster Homes", in Child Welfare, July 1957, Vol. 36, p. 21-25.

Kardiner²¹ provides a direct look at a culture of neglecting and rejecting motherhood. His findings are a crass example of neglect and its consequences in the perpetuation of a behaviour pattern within a cultural institution. An anthropological study of the Alorese society presents a picture of the Alorese mother who feeds the infant in the morning, goes to work in the fields, lets her child tend for himself. At best she leaves him in the care of some older sibling, who has no interest in the task and no love for the infant. Toddlers screaming after their mothers, begging to be taken along are a common sight in the community; every Alorese complains that his mother abandoned him in childhood. The Alorese father is mostly absent and is said to "dun for debts".

The consequence of this neglect is apparent in several ways: the Alorese have a low order of conscience and only guilty fear; the relations between the sexes are abominable and all forms of human relatedness are very seriously impaired. The Alorese are suspicious, distrusting of themselves and anyone else. They are guarded, defensive, timid, insecure; they are incapable of honest cooperation.

21 A. Kardiner, "The Alorese: Analysis of Alorese Culture", in A. Kardiner and others, The Psychological Frontiers of Society, New York, Columbia University Press, 1945, p. xxiv-475.

Such cooperation as does exist is on a utilitarian basis and unreliable. In the exchange of favours everyone cheats everyone. There is no creativity. Their art is crude and careless. They tolerate dilapidation and decay, live for the moment and have no capacity for planning.

This is the typical picture of emotionally neglected children, who make emotionally neglectful parents. Although removed from western society, they present a very similar picture to the constellation of the cultural institution of multiproblem families.

The multiproblem family places the mother in the most prominent position in its structure. The father is absent in the majority of cases. His presence is at best intermittent and unproductive. The children are left unattended and neglected.

Well authenticated facts with regards to the actual cause of the perpetuation of the characteristic pattern of behaviour in those families, are scarce. Bowlby²², in an analysis of 234 pairs of parents whose children were placed in an orphanage, supports the theory that the neglected psychopathic child grows up to be the neglectful psychopathic parent. In most cases a complete case history was impossible, but where data were available, they demonstrated

22 John Bowlby, Child Care and Growth of Love,
Op. Cit., p. 90.

that thirty-one per cent of the fathers and as many as fifty-eight per cent of the mothers have been deprived of a normal home life in their childhood due to neglect and cruel treatment.

2. The Mutability of Behaviour Patterns.

The preceding section has presented in broad terms an overview of the significance of the mother-child relationship in the establishment of behaviour patterns. In the following section an attempt is made to review the literature relevant to the mutability of those patterns in the establishment of a new life style.

Some controversy exists on the question of the permanence of the effects of maternal deprivation. Ainsworth²³, in her defence of the psychoanalytic position on the subject, states that inadequate attention to several considerations with regard to permanency of these effects have led some critics of the school to believe that early deprivation is an unlikely cause of later pathology. She enumerates four most important points which in her opinion lead to the controversy:

23 Mary D. Ainsworth, "The Effects of Maternal Deprivation: A Review of Findings and Controversy in the Context of Research Strategy", in Public Health Papers, No. 14, Geneva, World Health Organization, 1962, p. 97-165.

. . . a) even a severely damaged child may improve to some extent if deprivation is relieved; b) impairment of some processes seems more resistant to reversal than impairment of other processes; c) some damage is more obvious and more easily observable than other damage that may nevertheless be more resistant to reversal; d) it is very likely that some lasting effects are manifested overtly only under special circumstances - perhaps much later in life - which reactivate pathological processes originally set in train by the early deprivation experience²⁴.

Allport²⁵ states that his views are less fatalistic than those of some psychoanalytic psychologists: "Directions may change drastically in later childhood, in adolescence or in adulthood".²⁶ Furthermore, he repudiates what he interprets to be the Freudian approach to personality development by stating that the experiences of childhood need not be causative of an individual's present trends. He believes that conscious motives, rather than repressed motives, are important in the individual's psychological growth. His concept of functional autonomy²⁷ speaks for the case of reversibility of the detrimental effects of maternal deprivation.

24 Ibid., p. 102.

25 Gordon W. Allport, Pattern and Growth in Personality, New York, Holt Rinehart and Winston, 1961, p. ix-593.

26 Ibid., p. 81.

27 Ibid., p. 226-229.

Hence, the problem facing social agencies is whether these children's psychopathic, or more specifically sociopathic patterns, once formed, can be effectively reversed. The literature shows disagreement on this question.

3. Summary and Statement of General Hypothesis.

The purpose of this review has been: a) to provide the theoretical framework regarding the mother-child relationship as a basis for the child's later emotional and social development, and b) to consider the theoretical positions with reference to the problem of mutability of behaviour patterns.

Few modern psychologists question the potentialities of early behaviour trends for later personality organization. In the course of development certain modes of behaviour, once established, sensitize the child to certain aspects of his experience and dull him to others. Mother and child constitute a dyad, and most of the infant's actions are dependent on the linkage with and on their continuation in the mother's actions, whether these are predicated on conscious or unconscious motives.

The literature concerned with children reared by depriving mothers shows, by and large, a syndrome of personality characteristics that indicate disturbances in

their feelings about themselves and others, distortions in the way they perceive the world around them, retardation in social and emotional development, hostility, destructiveness and fear. There is, however, no clear indication as to the permanency of this behaviour pattern. Some interpreters of the psychoanalytic school contend that it is relatively immutable while others maintain that it can be altered with proper environmental changes.

There is general agreement in the literature as to the tendency of the depriving mother to disrupt the normal and natural relationship with her child so as to produce future psychopathic reactions in the child. In other words, where an attitude of basic trust between mother and child has never been firmly established, there is a tendency in the child to distrust all future relationships and hence to treat others as mere means to an end, rather than as partners in mutually meaningful ventures.

It is here that mutability in behaviour patterns becomes of central importance: if such early psychopathic trends are, in fact, immutable, foster home placement and selection become futile gestures, and at best palliative measures to ensure physical care alone. However, for practical purposes it is probably more constructive to assume the possibility that changes can be produced. From this assumption follows the general hypothesis of this study.

The purpose of this investigation is to explore these personality characteristics in foster mothers which enable them to establish a satisfactory relationship with their foster children. More specifically the hypothesis to be tested is: there are fundamental differences between the personality characteristics of the biological mothers and successful foster mothers of the same children.

The experimental design utilized in this investigation is presented in the next chapter.

CHAPTER II

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

This chapter presents the design used to test the hypothesis developed and stated in the previous chapter. It is in four sections which deal specifically with the population used in the study, description and administration of the test used, its scoring, and statistical operations involved in the analysis of the data. The chapter is concluded with a statement of the hypothesis in statistical terms.

1. The Population Sample

The selection of subjects for this study was based on the following practical criteria: availability of the biological mother; placement of child over a period not less than six months and not exceeding two years; the child's age between three and six; the agency's assessment of the foster mother as being successful; and placement of child determined by court order (Appendix 1) for no other reason than neglect. Hence, those mothers who had a history of mental illness, whether chronic or episodic, were excluded from the sample.

To ensure maximum accuracy in the selection, forms were designed (Appendix 2), and copies distributed to all social workers concerned with this research.

A preliminary meeting was held and the purpose and design of the study were presented to the Agency's protection workers¹ by the experimenter. They were requested to list all successful placements in their current case-load, thus enabling a thorough scrutiny of the cases before the actual population was chosen. A second meeting was held, this time only with protection workers whose cases were selected. Their supervisors were included. Each explained why a particular placement was considered successful. Their justifications for convictions in this respect were confirmed by the supervisor's opinion on the strength of case conferences held prior to the commencement of this research project. In all cases chosen for the study, the workers' reports stated that the children were doing well and that there was no reason to move them from their respective foster homes.

From the foregoing procedure thirty-eight subjects were selected: sixteen biological mothers and twenty-two foster mothers of the same children. The foster mother group is larger since three of the biological mothers have more than one child placed in care in various foster homes. The mean age of the biological mothers was 30.5 years, with

¹ A social worker who is charged with the responsibility of improving a neglected child's environment.

a range of 22 to 42 years. The mean age for the foster mothers was 37.8 with a range of 24 to 57 years.

2. Research Tool and its Administration.

A. The Research Tool.

The Differential Diagnostic Technique (D.D.T.) is a visual motor projective drawing test developed by H.J. Breen² and S.L. North³ at the University of Western Ontario in 1948. The D.D.T. is based on psychoanalytic theory and M.H. Erikson's⁴ work with hypnosis and the systematic analysis of automatic drawing behaviour. The rationale elaborates the possibility of systematically sampling of the subjects' non-verbal, visual-motor behaviour through the medium of drawing. The inventors believed that drawing behaviour subjected to objective analysis and quantification would reflect deep-seated emotional reactions to

2 Harold J. Breen, A Psychological Study of Freehand Drawings, Unpublished Master's Thesis, presented to the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Western Ontario, 1949, 54 p.

3 Sidney L. North, Some Studies in Personality Classification Using a Visual Motor Technique, Unpublished Master's Thesis, Presented to the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Western Ontario, 1950, 138 p.

4 M.H. Erickson, "The Experimental Demonstration of Unconscious Mentation by Automatic Writing", in Psychoanalytic Quarterly, Vol. 6, No. 4, October 1937, p. 513-529.

symbolically meaningful material. Furthermore, they reasoned that scoring factors indicating correctness in the subject's drawings assumed not only perceptual motor adequacy, but also underlying emotional control. On the other hand, incorrectness was assumed to indicate perceptual-motor inadequacy as well as underlying emotional loss of control.

The technique is designed to tap several traits and is based on the assumption that a particular trait can be expressed in different ways. Instead of a rigid one-to-one relationship between aspects of personality and their visual-motor expression, one should be able to find a multiplicity of reactions or responses. Accordingly, the responses are categorized with reference to symbolic meaning of straight and curved lines of which the figures of the test consist. For the purpose of scoring, these were divided into four major descriptive areas: Total personality, Hostility trends, Passive-Dependency trends, Interpersonal adjustment. There are five categories in each area. Each category yields a score of a personality variable. The five personality variables constituting the categories as measured by the D.D.T. are: Personality Rigidity (PR), Intellectual Control (IC), Energy Output (EO), Impulsiveness (Imp), Dissociation (Diss). There are thus twenty final scores for each subject.

The test material consists of two trial drawings and twelve test drawings of geometrical figures. Four test cards consist of presumably "masculine" figures constructed of jagged, straight-lined, angular shapes. Four of the cards contain symmetrical, curvilinear, undulating, presumably "feminine" symbols. A third set of four cards is constructed by the use of a combination of straight-lined and curvilinear drawings.

B. Studies Related to the Validity of the D.D.T.

Several studies regarding the validity of the D.D.T. are reported in the literature. Breen⁵ demonstrated that the test can be used with better than chance expectancy, to differentiate between normal subjects and those hospitalized for mental illness. In this preliminary study, however, he did not match for intellectual and educational level of the subjects. These variables were subsequently explored in another study⁶, where the D.D.T. was used as a measure of hostility. It was found that the variables of intelligence, age and sex of the subjects exerted no significant influence on the results obtained.

5 Harold J. Breen, Op. Cit., p. 27-38.

6 -----, The Differential Diagnostic Technique as a Measure of Hostility, Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, presented to the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Western Ontario, 1953, 68 p.

In the study cited, Breen⁷ employed three validating measures of hostility: subjects' verbal projections to their own D.D.T. performance, examiner's ratings based on brief interviews, and sociometric ratings of social preference within the experimental groups. The results of a full correlational analysis and a three by two chi square were significant beyond the .01 level. Breen points out that these statistically significant results came from the extremes of the distribution. He admits the shortcomings in the experimental design of the study with regard to the rating procedure involved. A precise rating scale and employment of judges would have ensured greater objectivity.

Notwithstanding, the results of the first two validating criteria correlated significantly with the results of the D.D.T., tended to support the contention that the D.D.T. may be used as a measure of hostility in normals.

North⁸ tested the hypothesis that there is a significant relationship between the D.D.T. results and the way in which the basic style of life of a number of people can be classified. Three validity studies employing blind analysis were undertaken. They involved a total of

7 Ibid., p. 36.

8 Sidney L. North, Op. Cit., p. 140.

sixty-four selected cases. Five psychiatrists agreed on their respective diagnoses. In the first two studies with a total population sample of forty-six cases, agreement was found in thirty-seven cases between the test results and the classification that had been made of the basic style of life of the subjects. The third study was done with eighteen subjects; an attempt was made to predict the test patterning from the classification of their basic style of life arrived at on the basis of an interview and case history data. The predicted test results were found in seventeen of the eighteen cases⁹.

Thurlow¹⁰ compared mothers of "well-adjusted" children to mothers of "maladjusted" children by means of the D.D.T. and the Maslow Security - Insecurity Inventory. The study involved forty-six subjects. A highly significant inverse relationship was found between the scores on the two tests and Thurlow reports that the D.D.T. results which suggest better adjustment are concurrent with the "more secure" Maslow Inventory scores. The Spearman Rank-Difference Correlation was .457, the r required at the one per cent level of significance being .383. It may be noted

9 Ibid., p. 8190.

10 John H. Thurlow, A Comparative Study of the Adjustment of Mothers of Normal and Maladjusted Children, Unpublished Master's Thesis, presented to the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Western Ontario, 1957, 30 p.

that these results were obtained in spite of some flaws in the experimental design: the "well-adjusted" children were not clinically evaluated as such; a verbal self-reporting technique such as the Maslow Security - Insecurity Inventory has the disadvantages of its dependence on the degree of insight and motivation on the part of the reporter.

C. Administration.

The administration of the test to individual subjects took place on the premises of the Children's Aid Society in Ottawa. Appointments were made by respective social workers, who were careful not to interfere with the subjects' daily routines. Where baby-sitters were necessary, arrangements were made by the Children's Aid Society's Volunteer Services and appropriate care was provided.

The protection workers were uniformly instructed to keep conversation about testing to a minimum. They were requested to maintain a non-committal attitude, which posed no difficulty, since they knew little about the test. At no time, however, were they to minimize its importance, regardless of their personal feelings about psychological tests.

In approaching subjects for the purpose of participation in the research, all workers used the same manner. The biological mothers were addressed as follows:

Johnny (first name of the child) has been doing well in the foster home. Now we would like to find out what it is that the child has from you that made him do well there. We would like you to help us by taking part in some research. You will have to take a test. The psychologist will explain the rest.

The foster mothers were similarly approached:

Johnny (first name of the child) has been doing well here. We would like to find out what makes you good for Johnny. We would like you to help us by taking part in some research. You will have to take a test. The psychologist will explain the rest.

The subjects were tested in the boardroom of the Children's Aid Society, where lighting, air-conditioning and work surface was considered adequate for test performance.

The experiment was introduced to the biological mothers as follows:

I want to help the Children's Aid Society to find out which is the best home for your child. To do this I have to find out what the child's mother is really like. I have a test here which is like a thermometer to measure mental health. I will show you what to do.

The foster mothers were given a similar introduction:

I want to help the Children's Aid Society to find out which are the best foster homes for children. To do this I have to find out what the good foster mothers are really like. I have a test here which is like a thermometer to measure mental health. I will show you what to do.

Ten sheets of white bond paper 8½ by 11 inches in size and a freshly sharpened pencil without an eraser were placed in front of each subject. The administration instruction of the D.D.T. were strictly adhered to in accordance with the test's manual.¹¹

Upon completion of the test performance, subjects were asked to wait in an adjoining room. Each was recalled after an interval of fifteen minutes to be retested. The testing procedure was identical on both administrations. The sequence of each subject's performance was marked with a ball-point pen, immediately after completion of each test.

Arbitrary codes were given to individual test results and the names on the response sheets were obscured with masking tape. The data were then thoroughly shuffled and submitted to Breen, the originator and co-inventor of the test, for scoring.

¹¹ Unpublished Test Manual Obtained Together with D.D.T. Material.

3. Statistical Procedures.

Because of the small sample, raw score data were converted into ranks, and Spearman Rank Difference Correlations¹² for test-retest reliability were calculated.

To establish the level of significance of the difference between the means of the two groups t-ratios¹³ were computed.

4. Statistical Hypothesis.

On the basis of the experimental design outlined in this chapter, the hypothesis set out in the preceding chapter may be reformulated in the following statistical terms. According to the null hypothesis, there is no significant difference between the mean D.D.T. scores of successful foster mothers and biological mothers of the same children.

The experimental results obtained are presented and discussed in the next chapter.

The four sections of this chapter have covered the experimental design of the study. The next chapter contains the presentation of the results.

12 J.P. Guilford, Fundamental Statistics in Psychology and Education, New York, McGraw-Hill Book Company Inc., 1956, p. 287.

13 Ibid., p. 220.

CHAPTER III

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

This chapter contains the results of the statistical treatment of the data in preparation for their discussion.

There were two groups in the study: biological mothers and successful foster mothers of the same children. The personality characteristics of these groups were to be compared. The instrument of measurement was the D.D.T.

Tables I-IV present the data on test-retest reliability. Table I deals with the Total Area of the test divided into five D.D.T. categories. Tables II, III, and IV, deal similarly with the data from the Hostility, Passive-Dependency, and Interpersonal Areas of the Test.

Test-retest correlations were computed by means of the Spearman Rank Difference Correlation method. The obtained RHO ranged from .025 to .811 for the biological mothers; in the foster mother group it ranged from .005 to .760. There is no particular order to the results and one group does not seem to differ from the other in terms of test-retest reliability. The results therefore differ from previous reliability studies reported¹ for the D.D.T.,

¹ Sidney L. North, The Diagnostic Efficiency of a Drawing Technique, Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, Presented to the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Western Ontario, 1953, p.48.

where the Spearman RHO between the test and retest scores was found to be .80 (with .59 required at the .01 level of significance). The product moment correlation between test and retest scores of forty-four randomly selected subjects, who formed part of the population sample in the same study², was reported to be .75. However, these calculations were based on the Differential Indices of the test, rather than the actual original scores of the separate categories. The Differential Index is a composite score derived from the scores of the separate categories. Hence, the comparison is of dubious value.

In spite of the relatively low test-retest reliabilities as measured by the Spearman RHO, a comparison of the mean scores (Appendix 3) indicates a high degree of consistency in the two performances. This applies equally to both the biological and foster mother groups. Hence the variability in the performance of the individual subjects from one trial to the next does not appear to affect the overall consistency of the group performance.

In utilizing the data for statistical comparison of the two groups, only the results of the first test administration were employed, since it would presumably possess the greater validity and also because of the marked similarity between the trials.

2 Ibid.

Table I.- Spearman RHO for PR, IC, EO, Imp, Diss, within the Total Area of the D.D.T. between First and Second Administration of the Test to Biological and Foster Mothers.

| Categories | Biological | Foster |
|------------|------------|---------|
| | N:16 | N:22 |
| PR | 0.730** | 0.520* |
| IC | 0.092 | 0.220 |
| EO | 0.426* | 0.642** |
| Imp | 0.135 | 0.284 |
| Diss | 0.440* | 0.673** |

** Significant at 0.01 level

* Significant at 0.05 level

Table II.- Spearman RHO for PR, IC, EO, Imp, Diss, within the Hostility Area of the D.D.T. between First and Second Administration of the Test to Biological and Foster Mothers.

| Categories | Biological | Foster |
|------------|------------|---------|
| | N:16 | N:22 |
| PR | 0.594* | 0.230 |
| IC | 0.570* | 0.132 |
| EO | 0.105 | 0.600** |
| Imp | 0.262 | 0.005 |
| Diss | 0.135 | 0.575** |

** Significant at 0.01 level

* Significant at 0.05 level

Table III.- Spearman RHO for PR, IC, EO, Imp, Diss, within the Passive-Dependency Area of the D.D.T. between First and Second Administration of the Test to Biological and Foster Mothers.

| Categories | Biological | Foster |
|------------|------------|---------|
| | N:16 | N:22 |
| PR | 0.392 | 0.363* |
| IC | 0.025 | 0.087 |
| EO | 0.293 | 0.702** |
| Imp | 0.832** | 0.400* |
| Diss | 0.492* | 0.534** |

** Significant at 0.01 level

* Significant at 0.05 level

Table IV.- Spearman RHO for PR, IC, EO, Imp, Diss, within the Interpersonal Area of the D.D.T., between First and Second Administration of the Test to Biological and Foster Mothers.

| Categories | Biological | Foster |
|------------|------------|---------|
| | N:16 | N:22 |
| PR | 0.811** | 0.547** |
| IC | 0.105 | 0.567** |
| EO | 0.798** | 0.760** |
| Imp | 0.533* | 0.378* |
| Diss | 0.402 | 0.584** |

** Significant at 0.01 level

* Significant at 0.05 level

Table V.- Means, Standard Deviations and t-ratios* for
Biological (B) and Foster Mothers (F): Total Area.

| | | PR | | | IC | | | EO | | | Imp | | | Diss | | |
|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|------|------|--|
| N | M | S | t | M | S | t | M | S | t | M | S | t | M | S | t | |
| B 16 | 6.5 | 2.6 | | 4.9 | 2.4 | | 7.7 | 2.8 | | 11.9 | 2.7 | | 8.2 | 3.0 | | |
| | | | 1.11 | | | 0.44 | | | 0.30 | | | 0.13 | | | 0.71 | |
| F 22 | 7.4 | 2.2 | | 4.5 | 2.8 | | 8.0 | 3.2 | | 12.0 | 1.9 | | 7.5 | 2.8 | | |

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

* t-ratio significant at the 0.05 level = 2.028

Table VI.- Means, Standard Deviations and t-ratios* for
Biological (B) and Foster Mothers (F) :
Hostility Area.

| N | PR | | | IC | | | EO | | | Imp | | | Diss | | |
|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|
| | M | S | t | M | S | t | M | S | t | M | S | t | M | S | t |
| B 16 | 4.2 | 2.0 | | 3.4 | 2.2 | | 6.3 | 3.4 | | 9.8 | 0.9 | | 5.2 | 2.8 | |
| | | | 0.14 | | | 0.53 | | | 0.18 | | | 0.51 | | | 0.49 |
| F 22 | 3.9 | 2.1 | | 3.8 | 2.2 | | 6.5 | 3.3 | | 9.5 | 2.2 | | 4.7 | 3.2 | |

* t-ratio significant at the 0.05 level = 2.028

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

Table VII.- Means, Standard Deviations and t-ratios* for
 Biological (B) and Foster Mothers (F) :
 Passive-Dependency Area.

| N | PR | | | IC | | | EO | | | Imp | | | Diss | | |
|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|
| | M | S | t | M | S | t | M | S | t | M | S | t | M | S | t |
| B 16 | 6.1 | 2,3 | | 3.4 | 1.5 | | 3.2 | 1.6 | | 9.9 | 1.9 | | 3.9 | 3.0 | |
| | | | 0.46 | | | 0.66 | | | 0.14 | | | 0.15 | | | 0.01 |
| F 22 | 6.5 | 2.7 | | 3.8 | 2.0 | | 3.1 | 2.4 | | 9.8 | 2.0 | | 3.8 | 3.5 | |

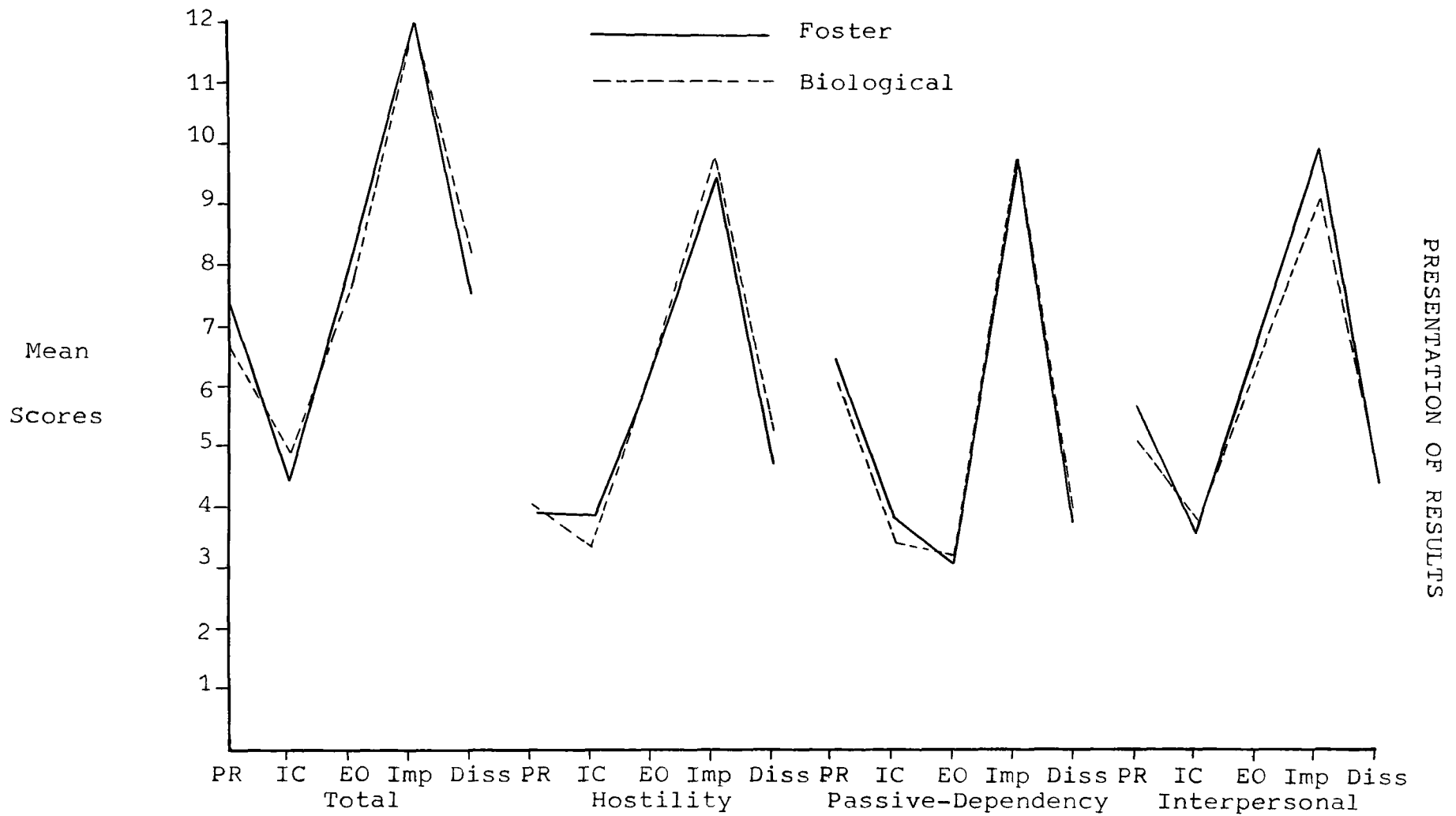
* t-ratio significant at the 0.05 level = 2.028

Table VIII.- Means, Standard Deviations and t-ratios* for Biological (B) and Foster Mothers (F) : Interpersonal Area.

| N | PR | | | IC | | | EO | | | Imp | | | Diss | | |
|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|
| | M | S | t | M | S | t | M | S | t | M | S | t | M | S | t |
| B 16 | 5.2 | 2.0 | | 3.8 | 1.7 | | 6.4 | 2.2 | | 9.1 | 2.0 | | 4.5 | 2.9 | |
| | | | 0.74 | | | 0.30 | | | 0.72 | | | 1.55 | | | 0.11 |
| F 22 | 5.7 | 2.0 | | 3.6 | 2.0 | | 6.9 | 1.9 | | 10.0 | 1.5 | | 4.4 | 2.4 | |

* t-ratio significant at the 0.05 level = 2.028

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS



PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

Figure 1.- Comparison Between Mean Scores of Biological and Foster Mothers.

These results seem to indicate two phenomena: first, the general trend toward consistency of the central tendencies of the groups, and second, the fact that the coefficients are sufficiently variable and sufficiently moderate to indicate that the different category scores are discriminating.

Tables V-VIII present the t-ratios comparing the mean scores obtained for the two groups, None of these were significant.

Figure 1 presents a graphic comparison of the means.

Simple inspection of the mean scores reveals the striking similarity in the performance of the biological and successful foster mothers. The non-significant "t's" confirm this impression. It is therefore possible to conclude that the null hypothesis, that there are no significant differences between mean D.D.T. scores of the biological mothers and successful foster mothers of the same children, could not be rejected.

In effect, the statistical analysis of the data suggests that the biological mothers and successful foster mothers of the same children in this study were drawn from the same general population, as measured by the D.D.T.

This chapter presented the statistical results obtained in the study. These results will be discussed in the following chapter.

CHAPTER IV

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

This chapter contains two sections in which the author discusses the question of reliability and compares the biological mothers to successful foster mothers of the study.

1. The Question of Reliability.

As noted in Chapter III, p. 26, the individual variability in test-retest scores of the subjects was relatively high for a test of this nature and in view of other studies.¹ It was pointed out in the same chapter, p. 27, that this did not appear to effect the overall test-retest consistency as measured by the means. In other words, the nature of the population sample remains the same on second administration of the test. The variability therefore is evidently primarily determined by the rather erratic performance of these particular subjects, from one trial to the next. For example, when the mean Imp scores on trial I and II of the biological mothers in the Total Area is nearly identical (11.9 and 11.6 respectively),² the

¹ Sidney L. North, The Diagnostic Efficiency of a Drawing Technique, Ibid.

² Appendix 2.

actual coefficient of correlation is only 0.135.³ On the other hand, when the mean PR scores on trial I and II of the biological mothers in the Total Area is identical at 6.5⁴ the coefficient of correlation is 0.730.⁵

The erratic performance has a particular significance: it is a finding in itself and suggests that the subjects of this study tend to be unusually inconsistent in their behaviour patterns with regard to test performance, even within a very short space of time. Translated into a personality trait as measured by the D.D.T., this finding indicates a singular lack of dependability in these subjects. Wide experience with the D.D.T. has shown that this particular tendency is characteristic for psychopathic personalities.⁶ As a group, the subjects are quite consistent in their inconsistency.

2. Comparison of Biological and Successful Foster Mothers.

As the results have clearly shown, the two groups compared in this study are remarkably similar in their test results.

3 Table I, p. 28.

4 Appendix 2.

5 Table I, p. 28.

6 Personal Communication with Harold J. Breen, Ph.D., who constructed the D.D.T.

Figure 1, on p. 36, graphically illustrates the similarity between the two groups. If one examines it as one would approach the psychogram of an individual patient, the configuration as well as the relationships of the categories indicate psychopathic personality patterning. There is the typical, relatively high degree of insight as measured by IC categories; there is the peak in the impulsivity categories and there is the discrepancy in performance between Hostility and Passive-Dependency Areas, in which a greater degree of control through Rigidity is exercised in the Passive-Dependency Area.

It will be noted that the degree of Dissociation is high. This would be indicative of outright psychosis. In fact, composite psychograms representing the various nosological syndromes found in North's⁷ work contain one that comes remarkably close to that on Fig. 1. He reports that:

⁷ Sidney L. North, Some Studies in Personality Classification Using A Visual-Motor Psychological Technique, Unpublished Master's Thesis, Presented to the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Western Ontario, 1950, p. 96.

. . . it was noted that records diagnosed on the D.D.T. as Chronic Hostility States tended to be those of patients who were psychiatrically diagnosed as "Paranoid Schizophrenia", or "Paranoid Condition". (...) it was also found, that in some instances Chronic Hostility States, as determined by the D.D.T., were not considered psychiatrically to be of any type of paranoia or paranoid schizophrenia. For example it was found that patients diagnosed as "Psychopathic Personalities" frequently exhibited the Chronic Hostility State patterning on the D.D.T.⁸

Paranoid Schizophrenia as well as Paranoid Condition is ruled out in view of the criteria laid down for the choice of the population sample in this study. The psychopathic personality patterning remains plausible and possible within the framework of this research. However, this is not so much a diagnosis as a description of an attitude, state of mind and life style. It is quite possible that the majority of these subjects would be diagnosed as schizophrenia of the paranoid type if they became psychotic.

It is fitting in this regard to speculate concerning the motivation of foster mothers for taking on the children of other women. The first consideration which comes to mind in this regard is naturally the remuneration which consists of basic payment plus clothing and spending allowance for the child. Furthermore, all medical expenses incurred are covered by the Agency. For example, the foster mother who assumes the responsibility for one Agency child

⁸ Ibid., p. 80.

between three and six years of age, receives a maximum of 624 dollars per year. The significance of this amount as a contribution to family finances is debatable. Since its magnitude depends entirely on the individual management and the extent of financial need, the question cannot be disputed in terms of a "prime mover". Notwithstanding the financial factor in motivation with marginal groups, one must be aware of other possibilities.

A clue is provided through this study in the results obtained with the D.D.T., on which both biological and successful foster mothers obtained a psychopathic pattern. This may suggest, in effect, that whatever the motivation, it would logically fall within the dynamics of these personality types. It is to be recalled that these people treat others as mere means to ends and hence, money can be a motivating factor. But these mothers may also be deriving other types of more personal satisfaction from the venture; if we are aware, then, that neither group of mothers, biological or foster, really want the responsibility for the care of other human beings, there must be some common factor between them. In fact, if the results of this study could be taken to be conclusive, the common factor would be the need to reject their own children. Where the biological mothers reject their children outright in order to avoid permanent ties, then it is feasible that the foster mothers

would enter into a temporary kind of relationship in order to avoid the involvement, which would normally exist in caring for their own children. Hence, their own children would assume, for them, the same role in the family as foster children and would be treated alike, that is, as temporary and non-binding ties.

These speculations must be viewed in the light of certain limitations which are inherent in a study of this kind. First and foremost, it is necessary to consider the nature of the sample, which is extremely small, but usual for exploratory or pilot studies of this nature. Then there is the D.D.T. itself, a relatively unknown device on which comparatively few validating studies have been done. Also, the D.D.T. is the only test instrument employed in this study, when a test battery is considered preferable. Hence, one cannot generalize from the results of this study. Nevertheless, they are suggestive and could serve as a stimulus for future, more intensive research along the same lines. The topic is an important social issue and appears to merit further investigation.

The results of this study indicate the similarity in the personality structure of the biological and foster mothers of the populations sampled, as measured by the D.D.T.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This study attempted to explore a small segment of the multiproblem family dynamics; specifically it focused on the comparison of the biological and successful foster mothers of the same children by means of the Differential Diagnostic Technique.

The sample was drawn from the population on the active files of the Children's Aid Society in Ottawa and consisted of thirty-eight subjects. These were divided into two groups: one contained sixteen biological mothers, the other, twenty-two foster mothers. The latter group was larger due to the fact that three of the biological mothers had more than one child placed in various foster homes.

From the results of this experiment it appears that both groups are drawn from the same population. Their composite psychogram suggests psychopathy in terms of the D.D.T. rationale.

The implications of these results are suggestive of the following: first, the successful transfer of the children from one group to another is facilitated by the similarity of the personality dynamics between the two groups of mothers: the children are not called upon to make any fundamental changes in their modes of interaction and, second, the successful (in terms of being trouble-free)

interaction between the children and their foster mothers may be a contributing factor to psychopathy within the community, hence the perpetuation of neglect and consequent foster placements from generation to generation.

While the results of one small exploratory study, which utilized one personality test, cannot be regarded as conclusive or definitive, they are sufficiently clear-cut to suggest further fruitful exploratory studies along the same lines. For example, should the results be duplicated in further research, one would like to know, why some psychopathic mothers are able to maintain a semblance of a structured family life (albeit at the expense of the children involved), other similar mothers seem to abandon the effort and seek outlets for their opportunism in other forms of social exploitation. With regard to the children involved in the present study, one may well ask by means of a longitudinal research whether they will present the same composite psychogram and play similar roles to those of their parents in their communities: how would these children, when adults, compare with the natural children of their foster parents?

It would be potentially enlightening to develop a control study in which a third group of mothers could be tested with the D.D.T. and compared with the two groups reported in this research - this group to consist of

successful biological mothers in the same socio-economic group who neither desired nor had foster children in their care.

Further investigations could lead to the prognostic classification of foster homes, with the view of providing the child with a frame of reference conducive to growth towards greater emotional and social maturity.

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Bowlby, John, "Maternal Care and Mental Health", World Health Organization Monograph Series, No.2, issue of 1952, 194 p.

Views deprived children as a source of social infection in terms of perpetuation of psychopathic behaviour from one generation to the next. He attributes the presence of the social problem to lack of research into underlying psychological factors.

Erikson, Erik H., Childhood and Society, New York, W.W. Norton, 1950, 397 p.

Deals with the relationships between childhood training and cultural accomplishments. His treatment of the stages of development in man is of central importance.

Spitz, René A., The First Year of Life, New York, International Universities Press, 1965, vii-394 p.

A detailed description of the emotional interchange between mothers and their children. He develops the thesis that mother-child relations and the culture in which these occur are inextricably interwoven.

APPENDIX 1

CHILD WELFARE ACT AND CHILD CARE

APPENDIX 1

CHILD WELFARE ACT AND CHILD CARE

The Children's Aid Societies of Ontario are charged with the responsibility of providing services for children as outlined in the Child Welfare Act.¹ The Act explicitly covers:

. . . a child when the person in whose charge he is neglects or refuses to provide or secure proper medical, surgical, or other remedial care or treatment necessary for his health or well being, (...) a child who is emotionally rejected or deprived of affection by the person in whose charge he is (...) and (...) is sufficient to endanger his emotional and mental development, (...)²

Although the Act spells out in detail the authority for the various services to be administered on behalf of the children, it does not do so with regards to the specific means except to state: "Every function or operation of the Societies, in tending to the best interests of children in Ontario, has legal support".³

One of the functions of the Children's Aid Societies is to place children covered under the Act in foster homes. One of the cardinal principles of child placement in foster homes is to make appropriate changes in environment.

1 Ontario Department of Public Welfare, The Child Welfare Act, 1954, and Regulations, Toronto, Queen's Printer, 1959, 81 p.

2 Ibid., p. 10.

3 Ibid., p. 3.

APPENDIX 2

MEAN D.D.T. SCORES

APPENDIX 2

MEAN D.D.T. SCORES FROM FIRST AND SECOND
ADMINISTRATION FOR BIOLOGICAL AND FOSTER
MOTHERS.

| Areas | Categories | Biological N:16 | | Foster N:22 | |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------------|------|----------------|------|
| | | Administrations | | | |
| | | I | II | I | II |
| Total | | | | | |
| | PR | 6.5 | 6.5 | 7.4 | 6.4 |
| | IC | 4.9 | 5.4 | 4.5 | 5.3 |
| | EO | 7.7 | 6.9 | 8.0 | 8.2 |
| | Imp | 11.9 | 11.6 | 12.0 | 11.7 |
| | Diss | 8.2 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 6.4 |
| Hostility | | | | | |
| | PR | 4.0 | 4.7 | 3.9 | 4.1 |
| | IC | 3.4 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 4.8 |
| | EO | 6.3 | 5.6 | 6.5 | 6.2 |
| | Imp | 9.8 | 10.2 | 9.5 | 9.5 |
| | Diss | 5.2 | 5.3 | 4.7 | 4.2 |
| Passive-Dependency | | | | | |
| | PR | 6.1 | 4.7 | 6.5 | 5.7 |
| | IC | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.5 |
| | EO | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.1 |
| | Imp | 9.9 | 8.8 | 9.8 | 9.9 |
| | Diss | 3.9 | 3.4 | 3.8 | 2.7 |
| Interpersonal | | | | | |
| | PR | 5.2 | 4.9 | 5.7 | 4.7 |
| | IC | 3.8 | 4.4 | 3.6 | 4.1 |
| | EO | 6.4 | 6.2 | 6.9 | 7.5 |
| | Imp | 9.1 | 9.1 | 10.0 | 8.8 |
| | Diss | 4.5 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 3.9 |

APPENDIX 3

SAMPLE FORM FOR SELECTION OF SUBJECTS

APPENDIX 3

SAMPLE FORM FOR SELECTION OF SUBJECTS

Protection Worker:

Active Protection Cases - Children in Care

Aged 3-6

In Care at Least 6 Months by May 1, 1964, in One Foster Home

| Child | Date of Birth | Biological Mother | Reason for Placement | Date of Admission |
|-------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | | | |

APPENDIX 4

ABSTRACT OF

Biological and Foster Mothers
on the D.D.T.

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ABSTRACT OF

Biological and Foster Mothers on the D.D.T.

The research reported in this thesis concerns the general area of multiproblem families.

Specifically, this study was designed to test the hypothesis that successful foster home placement, logically, should be due to some basic and important difference between the rejecting biological mothers and successful foster mothers of the same children. A survey of the relevant literature is used to document the importance of the mother-child relationship in the formation of a later character structure of the child.

The population sample consisted of sixteen biological mothers matched with a corresponding group of twenty-two foster mothers who had taken over the care of one or more of their children.

A research instrument known as the Differential Diagnostic Technique (D.D.T.) was employed as a measure of the personality differences predicted between the two groups.

The results indicated that the Test appeared to be capable of discriminating statistical measurements in the sample employed.

On the basis of the obtained data, the general hypothesis of the study was refuted, in that no significant difference between biological and successful foster mothers could be demonstrated. Furthermore, the identical Test patterns of the two groups were analyzed and shown to be diagnostic of that type of emotional instability known as psychopathic personality.

The implications of these results are discussed and the inference is drawn that a so-called successful placement may, in fact, involve a linear continuation of psychopathology in the children so placed.

The author recommends further research which may lead to prognostic classification of foster mothers.