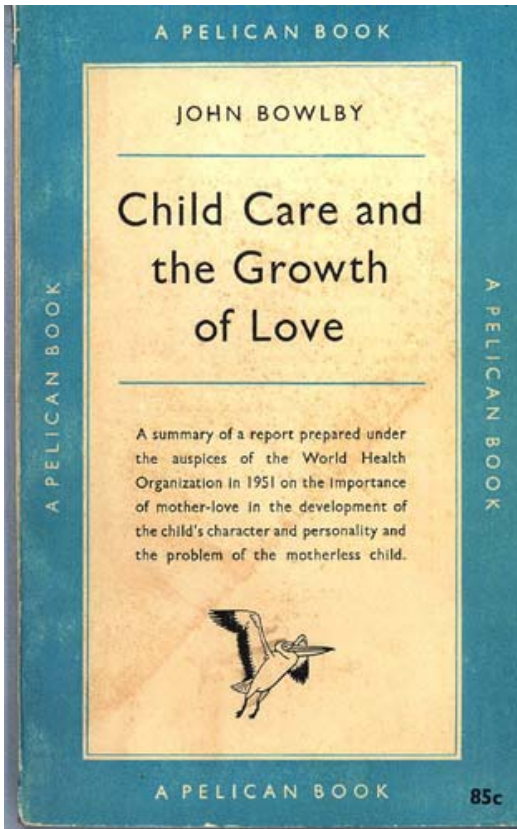


Book of the Century



John Bowlby (1953). *Child Care and The Growth of Love*. Pelican Books. Baltimore, MD. Based upon the World Health Organization (WHO) Report *Maternal Care and Mental Health* by John Bowlby (1951). 182 pp.

A summary of a report prepared under the auspices of the World Health Organization in 1951 on the importance of mother-love in the development of the child's character and personality and the problem of the motherless child.

Additional commentary

"Among the most significant developments of psychiatry during the past quarter of a century (written in 1951) has been the steady growth of evidence that the quality of the parental care which a child receives in his earliest years is of vital importance for his future mental health." (p.11)...

"Deprived children, whether in their homes or out of them, are the source of social infection as real and serious as are carriers of diphtheria and typhoid. And, just as preventive measures have reduced these diseases to negligible proportions, so can determined actions greatly reduce the number of deprived children in our midst and the growth of adults liable to produce more of them" (p.181).

Yet, so far, no country has tackled this problem seriously. Even in so-called advanced countries there is a tolerance for conditions of bad mental hygiene in nurseries, institutions, and hospitals to a degree which, if it were found in the field of physical hygiene, would long since have led to public outcry (p.181)

"The second factor still at work is a lack of conviction on the part of governments, social agencies, and the public that mother-love in infancy and childhood is as important for mental health as are vitamins and proteins for physical health" (p. 182)...

"One must be beware of a vested interest in the institutional care of children!" (p. 182, emphasis added).

"Let it be hoped, then, that all over the world men and women in public life will recognize the relation of mental health to maternal care, and will seize their opportunities for promoting courageous and far-reaching reforms." (p.182).

(It should be noted that Bowlby uses the term "paternal" and "maternal" care of the infant and not the bureaucratic replacement of these terms with "caretaker". It is difficult to find the primary usage of "maternal" and "paternal" in government documents concerned with childcare--an abomination--jwp).