

A New Adlerian Contribution to Education

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Any book by an Adlerian is an event of considerable significance; as it deals with the problems of changing times and situations, it marks an important step in widening the application of Adlerian Psychology.

The new book by the Beechers (Marguerite and Willard, *Parents On the Run*, the Julian Press, N.Y. pp. 238, \$3.50) is more than a significant addition to Adlerian literature. What distinguishes this book from the many written for parents is its basic emphasis, so clearly expressed in the title. Parents *are* on the run, but only few have dared to tell them so. Many experts have done their best to *keep* them on the run or to make them run faster. It is this tragic confusion of our contemporary emphasis on "more love," avoiding "frustration" and "repression," meeting the "special needs" of special ages, which the Beechers try to counteract. They scorn "those theories in modern psychology and child guidance which have confused today's parents to the degree that the rearing of children has become ridiculously complex." They re-emphasize Adler's warning against pampering which does not bring democracy to the home, but makes the parents the slaves of their children. The Beechers show how parents can recognize their own needs and meet them, how they can declare their own independence and thereby help the children to become adjusted and happy.

In search for a new tradition in raising children we must avoid the tendency toward autocratic severity and toward anarchic laissez-faire. We may not always find the right way in between. Consequently, we may differ on some details of recommendations. But the principles which the Beechers present with clarity, imagination, humor and brilliance express the best tradition of Individual Psychology, applied to the contemporary scene of confusion and floundering. At a time when so few books present perspectives which permit the educator an effective approach to his daily tribulations with children, books like this meet a crying need. It is our obligation to bring it to the attention of parents and teachers wherever we can reach them.