

*THE NEW BABY AND CHILD*, by Penelope Leach. Published by Michael Joseph. Recommended price: \$55.

When this book was first published as *Baby and Child* it was referred to as the "bible of modern child care", and it was confidently stated that it would fulfill its function for years to come.

That certainly was the case.

But there was also a case for an update, and the wise mother and author, Penelope Leach, recognised this and set to work. The result is a larger, revised edition beautifully produced to take it well into the 1990s.

Again it will be the caring mother's bible, for it covers all aspects of nurture of a baby and a young child. There are well over 500 photographs, diagrams and illustrations, making the text easier to understand. There's new material on the pre-school child and his/her education, some of which is quite fascinating in its discoveries. The medical section is indexed particularly well, and written to reassure an anxious parent of the child up to five years of age.

And who is this paragon of a writer who has the courage to advise in this emotional area of development, when most parents

believe their child is the only child in the world!

Penelope Leach lives in London, and she has two children. She completed a degree in history at Cambridge University before taking out her PhD in Social Psychology from the University of London.

She sees her work as bridging the gap between professionals and parents, and between practice and theory. Theories are all very well, and are usually propounded by men who have never borne children. Many of them are exploded and explained in the light of the practices most mothers adopt... by a mother.

— NINA VALENTINE

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*SHOUTING FROM CHINA*, by Helene Chung. Published by Penguin. Recommended price: \$14.99.

If the name of the author seems familiar it is because you watched or listened to her on ABC television or radio. Her despatches from Beijing were colorful, interesting and always different, even though she did have to "shout" across poor communication channels to get her message through.

She certainly manages well in this auto-

biography for there are often times in reading it that you think you are sharing her daily life during her three years as the ABC's first female foreign correspondent in China.

A fourth generation Tasmanian, Helene Chung was regarded as "overseas Chinese" by her hosts. This gave her tremendous advantages in day-to-day living, but certainly did not help her frustrations in endeavoring to tell the truth from a closed communist country, where isolation was the normal state of being.

She claims that she "only peered into a few cracks and crevices of Chinese society," yet to the uninitiated, she seems to show a great depth of knowledge of the people of the Republic of China, and to bring them alive by her compassionate understanding.

Through the layers of secrecy it was almost impossible for her to glean enough to satisfy her natural inquisitiveness, and as a reporter this became her greatest frustration. She sees no great change ahead for future foreign correspondents, but remains glad that the chance to try to pierce the screens of Chinese inscrutability was given to her.

— NINA VALENTINE