

lages and damaged hundreds more. Rost, a photojournalist for the *Literary Gazette* in Moscow, witnessed the scale of the destruction, as well as the abysmally low level of relief effort. Despite Gorbachev's prompt return from a United Nations speech to visit the area, foreign relief crews arrived more quickly and better-equipped than the Soviet teams. This eyewitness account of the earthquake aftermath may be a useful addition for extensive Armenia collections, but a marginal purchase for others. [For a comprehensive history of Armenia, see Christopher Walker's *Armenia: Survival of a Nation*, 2d ed., reviewed in this issue, below.—Ed.]—*Marcia L. Sprules, Council on Foreign Relations Lib., New York*

Stoll, David.

**Is Latin America Turning Protestant?: The Politics of Evangelical Growth.**

Univ. of California Pr. Apr. 1990. c.450p. permanent paper. bibliog. index. LC 89-4790. ISBN 0-520-06499-2. \$24.95. INT AFFAIRS

In a region where Catholic liberation theology has taken a leading role in reform politics, little attention has been paid to the growing influence of evangelical Protestantism. Stoll, whose comprehensive and readable analysis is the first major work on this topic, provides a convincing argument that these Protestants are outcompeting Catholic base communities, and that present conversion rates to Protestantism suggest phenomenal growth in the next decades. In effect, Protestants offer moral change, while progressive Catholics opt for structural change. Focusing on case studies of Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Ecuador, the author explores many possible social and political consequences of this religious influence. Highly recommended.—*Roderic A. Camp, Central Coll., Pella, Ia.*

Walker, Christopher J. **Armenia:**

**The Survival of a Nation.** 2d ed.

St. Martin's. Apr. 1990. c.475p. maps. bibliog. index. LC 89-70009. ISBN 0-312-04230-2. \$35. INT AFFAIRS

Recent news accounts of demonstrations and violence in Armenia and Azerbaijan will have left many readers wondering what the dispute is all about. Walker has thoroughly researched, in memoirs and secondary sources, the centuries-old rivalry between Russia and Turkey for control of the Caucasus region and the attendant atrocities against the border peoples. His coverage of the years since 1920, when Armenia was incorporated into the Soviet Union, is very sketchy and does not clarify effectively the continuing territorial problems in the region of Nagorno-Karabagh. Thirty pages have been added to the original edition (St. Martin's, 1980) to update the conflict to May 1989; libraries owning the first edition need not buy the revision. Others will find this a useful background source on a troubled region. [For an account of the 1988 earthquake in

Armenia, see Yuri Rost's *Armenian Tragedy*, reviewed in this issue, p. 108.—Ed.]—*Marcia L. Sprules, Council on Foreign Relations Lib., New York*

## Psychology

Cramer, Kathryn D., Ph.D.

**Staying on Top When Your World Turns Upside Down: How To Triumph Over Trauma and Adversity.**

Viking. May 1990. c.320p. bibliog. ISBN 0-670-83049-6. \$17.95. PSYCH  
Cramer, a psychologist who lost her 22-year-old brother to a fluky case of mononucleosis, here presents an upbeat four-stage system to help people cope with traumatic life events—death, divorce, financial setbacks, job loss, major illness—by developing inner strength and resilience. Based on the adage that "Rough weather makes good timber," the system involves confronting the challenge, exploring the ramifications, identifying new possibilities, and finally achieving personal transformation. None of this is easy, we all know, but every bit helps, and Cramer's many practical tips may certainly help, too. Recommended for public libraries.—*Marcia G. Fuchs, Guilford Free Lib., Ct.*

Crawford, David.

**Easing the Ache: Gay Men Recovering from Compulsive Behavior.**

Dutton. May 1990. c.224p. LC 89-23775. ISBN 0-525-24871-4. \$17.95. PSYCH

Hundreds of self-help titles exist for heterosexual America, and gay men have read many of them, making the necessary substitutions. This book is the latest in a series of self-help titles aimed strictly at gay men. Crawford tells of his own compulsive addictions and how he finally regained control of his life, using a 12-step model (like AA) that he has modified particularly for the gay male community. He emphasizes the reclaiming of self-esteem, essential for recovery, and stresses the importance of spirituality and its "Strength," "whether we call it 'God' or 'higher power' or 'the people in the Twelve Step Meetings.'" Gay men will certainly relate to this book. A necessary purchase to round out self-help collections.—*Kevin M. Roddy, Oakland P.L., Cal.*

Kohn, Alfie.

**The Brighter Side of Human Nature: Altruism and Empathy in Everyday Life.**

Basic Bks. May 1990. c.384p. index. bibliog. LC 89-43102. ISBN 0-465-00757-0. \$19.95. PSYCH

In this scrupulously researched treatise pleading for a more benevolent assessment of human nature, the author questions whether accepting biological determinism (we are our genes) hasn't exacerbated irresponsible, aggressive, violent, and competitive behaviors. By as-

sembling convincing proofs from many disciplines, including sociology, psychology, philosophy, and economics, Kohn makes his points: that empathetic, heroic acts irrespective of self-interest occur more frequently than realized; that there are no discernible gender differences; that between egoism and altruism lie gradations, as, for example, action for the common good or interdependence. Also discussed is the school's role in encouraging prosocial behavior. Lay readers may wince at the scholarly prose, but overall, this is a topnotch title. Highly recommended.—*Janice Arenofsky, formerly with Arizona State Lib., Phoenix*

Margenau, Eric A.

**Sports Without Pressure: A Guide for Parents & Coaches of Young Athletes.**

Gardner Pr. 1990. c.143p. LC 89-16998. ISBN 0-89876-165-4. \$14.95. PSYCH

The value of sports, psychologically as well as physically, is clearly spelled out here from psychologist Margenau's viewpoint. The dangers, explained with the use of case histories, should make every parent and coach take a look at the way young people are pressured, both internally and externally, in sports settings. Young people in the United States, says Margenau, are in danger of becoming one-dimensional sports robots; there is a need for play in every child's development, but at about age 12 talented youngsters and their families must decide whether sports will be pursued in a recreational or professional way. Margenau presents important guidelines to help parents and coaches make the right decisions for children.—*Kenneth G. Tillman, Trenton State Coll., N.J.*

**Miller, Alice. The Untouched Key: Tracing Childhood Trauma in Creativity and Destructiveness.**

Doubleday. Apr. 1990. c.208p. tr. from German by Hildegard & Hunter Hannum. ill. bibliog. LC 89-25623. ISBN 0-385-26763-0. \$17.95. PSYCH

Had Stalin had at least one loving person in his childhood, would the USSR have suffered under his reign of terror? Had Buster Keaton not idolized his parents, who physically abused and exploited him, would his art have been different? In her latest work, Swiss psychoanalyst Miller draws links between childhood traumas that lead the famous (including painters Picasso, Kollwitz, and Soutine) and the infamous to lives that were either creative or destructive. She devotes a third of the book to Nietzsche, arguing that had the philosopher and his disciple Hitler reconciled their own early pain, then millions of lives would have been spared. Miller, who is no apologist for any of these figures, challenges the reader to learn from these experiences—to address head-on the horrors of child abuse and blind adherence to authority that, she contends, unabated can result in murder, genocide, and war.—*Michelle Lodge, New York*