Erickson respectfully comments on some effective elements, and then takes exception to Secter’s comment, “Any smart child can learn this.”

Erickson explains, “Any dumb child can learn this, even some of the smart ones,” thus presenting a beautiful double bind.

The give-and-take between these two historical giants offers a chance for reflection on the power of a common desire to bring hypnosis forward at a time when it was scarcely accepted by the medical establishment. The contrast between Secter’s direct approach and Erickson’s indirect style is fascinating. Overall, I found Hypnosis with Children to be enjoyable and useful for its historical value and practical applications. It’s well worth the effort to attend to in close detail.