

BOOK REVIEW

Proprioceptive Neuromuscular Facilitation by Margaret Knott and Dorothy Foss, second edition, Hoeber Medical Division, New York 1969.

It is a pleasure to have the second edition of Knott & Foss' patterns in PNF-techniques. The technique has now been used in many departments of physiotherapy with good effect in patients with spastic pareses.

It would be desirable to have series of control cases where this technique is compared with more conventional ones. There is also a distinct need to have strict indications for this technique in different types of neurological diseases. Perhaps we can hope that this will be included in the third edition.

Olle Höök

Spasticity — Mechanism — Measurement — Management by Ejner Pedersen, American Lecture Series, Charles C. Thomas Publ., Springfield, Ill., 1969.

The head of the Department of Neurology in Aarhus, Denmark, Professor Ejner Pedersen, has made a very clear and concise study on spasticity. This book is especially valuable for the clinician working with patients who suffer from impaired volitional muscular control caused by spasticity.

Doctor Pedersen gives a good description of the neurophysiological background and, against this, the chief stress is on the treatment of spasticity. Doctor Pedersen is to be congratulated on this excellent contribution.

Olle Höök

Cerebral Palsy and the Young Child by Susan M. Blencowe E & S Livingstone Ltd., London 1969.

The staff of the Cheyne Walk Centre for Spastic Children have reported their experience of Cerebral Palsy from a medical, therapeutical, educational and social point of view. The literature on Cerebral Palsy is considerable and sometimes confusing. This is the case when it deals with special therapeutical schools which claim to know the only right way to understand and treat these children. Therefore, it is stimulating to follow the clear, analytic description given in this book which stresses the complex of the handicap and the need of individual assessment.

The medical part of the book gives a good description of the neurophysiological background and a terminology on the neurological symptom. This part of the book, too, is very clear and interesting. Some figures have made the description more easily understood by the non-medical reader.

Sophi Lewitt's excellent chapter on physiotherapy must be stimulating to all those who feel lost in the jungle of different therapeutical schools. In this chapter, as in all the others, the realistic view on the handicap, what can be done and what can not, is fascinating to read.

The occupational therapy—as described in the book—is what the preschoolteacher works with in our country. As the children don't stay at Cheyne Walk longer than to the age of about seven, nothing is mentioned about the occupational training of older children.

The importance of team-work is stressed over and over again, as is the importance of looking at the total handicap of the child—sometimes the associated disorder is a greater handicap to the child than the impairment of moving.

Special chapters deal with such problems as Hearing loss, Vision disturbances and Speech therapy. The specific Perceptual disorders are described in an excellent way.

On the whole, I find the ideas expressed in this book to be in agreement with the ideas we have in our country both in the medical description and in the therapeutical part of the book. I recommend it to everyone—doctor, therapist, teacher—who is working in this field.

Ingemar Olow

Extrinsic Nervous Control of Colonic Motility and Blood Flow by Leif Hultén. Acta Physiologica Scand. Suppl. 335: 1969.

The literature in the field of the colonic motility is comprehensive and in many respects controversial. Hultén's paper deals mainly with an experimental study in cat. His studies on reflex control of colonic motility and the review of the literature are of great interest for clinicians dealing with patients with colonic disturbances due to neurogenic disorders which cause paraparesis or paraplegia.

Olle Höök