**BOOK REVIEWS**

Rehabilitation R&D Progress Reports
Veterans Administration (1986).
Veterans Administration, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service, Office of Technology Transfer (1530), Veterans Administration Medical Center, 50 Irving Street, NW, Washington, DC 20422.
431 pp., no charge.

Scientific research and engineering development are the focus of this comprehensive annual review of new, ongoing, and completed projects. Contributions come primarily from the U.S., with some input from foreign countries. Each of the numerous projects is briefly summarized with comments on its purpose and its research status. Some reports include statements on results and further plans. This publication covers a wide spectrum of topics: prosthetics, orthoses; joint replacement, spinal cord injury, functional assessment; biomechanics; wound and fracture healing; properties of muscle, ligaments, and tendons; arthritis; low back pain; muscular dystrophy; sensory aids, head trauma and cerebrovascular accident, and geriatrics. All of these major areas are divided into smaller categories and then further subdivided. For example, the following minor topics are listed under the major topic of spinal cord injury: medical treatment, spinal cord regeneration, communication methods, and environmental systems, to name a few. Specific studies are cited and then described with each of the minor topics.

Don't look for depth of information in this compilation of 401 reports; it is intended to serve as a quick reference. The inclusion of photographs might have been useful to provide greater detail on some of the research projects. One can solicit further information from the authors: With each research project the investigators, their affiliations, and their addresses are listed. A few studies are difficult to understand either because they are highly technical or because they are poorly written.

It is exciting to read of the advances that are occurring in the world of rehabilitation. This book provides a glimpse into the future of rehabilitation technology and scientific research. I think it may be of value to those who are contemplating research, are actively involved in it, or are interested in the directions of current research.

This is an admirable and comprehensive compilation of current project reports. Traditionally, many of the researchers have published their material only in journals in their own field; this book brings together a diversity of topics not readily available to the rehabilitation clinician.

Felice Celikyol

Clinical Mechanics of the Hand
Paul W. Brand (1985)
C. V. Mosby Company, 11830 Westline Industrial Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146.
342 pp., $47.00.

Those who have had the good fortune to hear Dr. Brand speak will immediately recognize the comfortable and unpretentious style that characterizes his work. He has a talent for communicating ideas vividly and clearly while minimizing the intimidation factor of the subject. Some may argue that his style is a bit too relaxed for a work of this nature, but I found it quite refreshing.

Dr. Brand intended this book for surgeons and therapists who have, in the past, shied away from the topic of hand problems because the technical engineering terminology was unfamiliar to them. He explains the mechanics involved and ties the concepts to clinical examples throughout the text. Numerous illustrations and photographs enhance the text.

The title of the book is somewhat misleading. One would expect the "clinical mechanics" to address a number of mechanical factors relating to a broad spectrum of clinical problems. The mechanical factors covered are, in fact, extensive, but the clinical examples used relate primarily to tendon problems, especially tendon transfer. Nevertheless, the book is a valuable addition to the literature.

As an instructor of kinesiology, I have searched for a good, clear, down-to-earth text that would give my students a good understanding of the subject but would not be too painful to study. Although this book is not appropriate as a general textbook, it can serve as a valuable resource.

I recommend this book to anyone working with hand problems, and I encourage other instructors of kinesiology to take a close look at this potential gold mine. This is certainly a treasured addition to my library.

Linda M. Martin

Cunningham's Manual of Practical Anatomy (15th ed.)
Upper and Lower Limbs (Vol. 1)
Thorax and Abdomen (Vol. 2)
Head and Neck and Brain (Vol. 3)
G. J. Romanes, PhD (1986).
907 pp., $15.95 per volume (softbound).

These excellent volumes thoroughly cover the extensive topic of human anatomy. The subject matter is divided into three parts and presented in three separate softbound volumes: Upper and Lower Limbs (Vol. 1), Thorax and Abdomen (Vol. 2), and Head and Neck and Brain (Vol. 3). This arrangement makes the text portable and easy to use. Written by an emeritus professor of anatomy at the University of Edinburgh, these manuals comprehensively cover human anatomy in a format that is useful to both the student and the experienced therapist.

The main text is concise and well organized. Key terms are in bold print with cross-references to illustrations, making the text easy to use. Helpful diagrams are used throughout the text. Color illustrations aid in the understanding of the subject matter. X rays as well as computed tomography (CT) scans and magnetic resonance imagings (MRIs) are presented to illustrate the addled information these technologies can provide for the clinician.

The manuals contain a wealth of well-organized charts and tables showing muscles and their movements, including nerve supply and muscle origin and insertion. Chart formats are exceptionally well presented.

Each manual is well indexed, with the index noting the text's illustrations and charts as well as the text for each topic. The excellent organi-
Discharge planning in an acute care setting is examined, and the various roles in discharge planning are analyzed. The authors feel that such planning is a family affair and that it encompasses not only social systems but also social support systems. The tools needed for effective discharge planning are presented, and the fears and expectations associated with DRGs are discussed. It is necessary to determine early on whether the patient will be discharged to an outpatient service, a home care service, or a long-term care service. As soon as this decision is made, the professionals from various disciplines seeing the patient should be notified so that preparations for discharge may begin.

One section of the book evaluates 10 institution-based and 7 community-based models; a framework for effective continuity of care is outlined.

Another section covers the following topics: the realities of discharge planning, discharge planning in primary care, maintaining optimal health, rehabilitative home care, post-discharge outcomes and care planning for the hospitalized elderly, and cultural considerations in discharge planning.

I found this book to be very informative, well organized, and easy to read and understand. I think it is a good resource on discharge planning and would be very beneficial for health care professionals who are either new to this area of practice or do not yet have a firmly established program in their facility. The issues addressed in the book concern not only one discipline but all care givers in the health professions.

Nancy Gustafson

Pharmacology for the Health Professional

Daniel Becker sets out to present a practical approach to pharmacology in this text, and he uses several very effective techniques to achieve his goal. He states that although most health professionals can...