or not a child with a physical disability will be able to operate a technical device. The device itself can be as simple as a toy or as complex as a computer. The authors discuss the need for appropriate selection of adaptations depending on the child's physical, intellectual, and social needs.

The first section describes the hardware modifications possible for adapting battery-operated toys. Chapter 2 provides pictures of toys that can be adapted and gives guidelines that assist the professional in establishing a toy library. The authors present guidelines for choosing toy switches, as well as fabrication instructions for two types of switches. Body positioning for switch operation is addressed in the next chapter. The final chapter deals with the microcomputer; the authors discuss evaluations and hardware and software modifications and make excellent suggestions for work station designs. The appendices provide a list of commercial sources, written resources, and guidelines for proposal writing to obtain funding for a toy-lending library.

This book is an excellent resource for therapists, teachers, and parents who are involved with physically disabled children. It is presented in simple language with excellent graphics. The experienced reader can use the book to check whether all options were considered. This book is one of the few available resources in this relatively new field of technology for the young physically disabled child.

Elaine Trefler, MEd, OTR


The University of Tennessee Rehabilitation Engineering Program (UTREP) has been designing and developing specialized seating for cerebral palsied children for 10 years. This book discusses seating for this population, including general considerations, commercially available seating systems, adaptations that can be made for specific types of problems, and funding options. The chapters are written by a variety of professionals, including occupational and physical therapists, rehabilitation engineers, physicians, and a social worker.

The first five chapters provide a basic review of general neurovascular, medical, and orthopedic considerations and implications for cerebral palsy in seating.

Chapters 6 through 11 discuss specific seating problems as they are encountered by the therapist working with cerebral palsy patients and provide possible solutions. A concise chart in Chapter 6, organized by problem, is a handy, quick reference for finding solutions for specific seating problems. These chapters discuss wheelchair attachments, mobility controls, and technical aspects of seating system fabrication in non-technical language. Also included are case histories.

The final three chapters discuss legislative, administrative, and financial aspects of this type of service delivery.

The useful series of appendices presents referral and evaluation forms used at UTREP, a list of commercial vendors and the seating equipment they carry, a comparison chart of various wheelchair control devices, and a list of facilities providing special seating services.

For the student or beginning therapist the book includes the basic background information for making seating decisions for children with cerebral palsy. For the experienced therapist, the middle chapters and the appendices provide, as the author states in the preface, "guidelines and decision making information in each critical aspect of the provision process."

Dawn Calhoun, OTR


This book presents the findings of a study done by the Institute of Medicine at the request of the Office of Prevention of the National Institute of Mental Health on the factors affecting the bereavement process and its impact on an individual's general and mental health.

The study addresses three major questions: What can be concluded from current research about the health consequences of bereavement? What future research would be important to pursue? Are there preventative interventions that should be recommended for a more widespread adoption in the health care system?

The book's three sections cover adults' reaction to bereavement, bereavement during childhood.
and adolescence, sociocultural influences, and epidemiologic perspectives on the health consequences of bereavement. The final section discusses the roles of health professionals and bereavement intervention programs.

Of particular interest to occupational therapists are the chapters on adult, adolescent, and childhood reactions. One very interesting chapter describes reactions to particular types of bereavement such as perinatal death, death of a child, and sudden infant death, as well as the problems in a grieving child and bereavement following suicide.

The book is exceptionally well written and is free of intellectual jargon. Illustrations are effective in capturing the universal responses to grief. Tables summarize the results of past and current research studies. Each chapter finishes with conclusions, recommendations, and detailed references.

This book would be an excellent addition to a practitioner's professional library, particularly since occupational therapists frequently deal with the impact of bereavement on health. It would also be a useful addition to assigned texts for courses on prevention, growth, and development because it presents explanatory models of the bereavement process.

Daphne Piegrome, MPA, OTR


This book is designed to highlight key facts about approximately 2,250 important national membership organizations that respond to the recreational and avocational interests of Americans. It describes the functions, programs, and activities of these organizations and provides their addresses.

In addition to the main alphabetical listing of organizations, the book provides subject, geographic, and budget level indexes as research aids.

This book can be a useful source of information on outlets for the leisure time interests of the individual citizen.

Margaret K. Mathiot-Schafer, MS, OTR


This book is intended for the school team member concerned with health promotion. It is not addressed specifically to occupational therapists. The 11 short articles are abstracted and well referenced.

In the first article, the need for general health promotion is established. Health risks, both physical and emotional, are identified throughout the book. The 2nd through 9th articles offer a variety of health promotion strategies. These strategies include The Life Skills Training Program, The Feeling Good Program, Coping Skills Training, relaxation training, and Rational-Emotive Therapy. The 10th article explores the present role of the interdisciplinary team and discusses the variables that contribute to a functioning team. The final chapter presents directions for program development.

Marilyn Martinedes Johnston, MS, ORT/L


Avery Weisman's clinical expertise and human insight allow him to explore how patients cope with losses, be it death or the loss of personal integrity through sickness or uprooting. He describes 15 coping strategies used by seriously ill patients and discusses the methods a therapist may use to facilitate functional coping. His thesis validates self-direction by the patient. His concept of "unobtrusive intervention" suggests that the skilled therapist assists the patient in developing self-esteem, skill, empathy, and morale. He affirms old age as the culmination of existence and develops a strategy for "regenerating courage and replenishing morale as one ages."

The author's background in psychoanalysis, psychiatry, neurology, and thanatology enable him to develop a creative thesis. This book is a refreshing and excellent resource for personal and professional growth.

Myra Kim Meaker, OTR