Occupational Therapy for Children

As stated by the editors, this book is intended as a basic pediatric textbook. Well organized and full of clinical examples, it effectively covers many important aspects of clinical practice in pediatrics, providing an introduction to the roles and functions of the occupational therapist in pediatric practice.

Several chapters deserve special mention. The chapter "OT in Pediatrics" clearly describes the human development through occupation as a generic model for pediatric practice; the chapters on play/recreation and sensory integration offer valuable, clearly written background information with applied clinical examples.

One criterion for evaluating a textbook is the amount of new information presented (i.e., information not included in other standard textbooks such as Willard & Spackman's Occupational Therapy). Unfortunately, the editors have included several sections that review development, health care delivery, general medical information and evaluations without expanding on or adding to the available information. Some sections are a mere summary of the literature, charts, and lists; they do not present the authors' clinical perspectives. Fortunately, other chapters include updated information and reflect the insights of the various authors.

Included are many charts, lists, evaluation forms, and clinical examples that entry level therapists (as well as students) will find helpful. Chapters are well referenced. The discussion of treatment related to specific diagnostic conditions includes clearly described appropriate intervention. Case studies support the authors' views and clarify specific treatment approaches. The occupational therapist's knowledge of the developmental process, use of activities, skills with activity analysis and adaptation, and concern for the quality of life are supported throughout the text.

The editors have accomplished their goal of providing a comprehensive text for basic professional education in occupational therapy for children thereby fulfilling an important need in our profession.

Jim Hinojosa

A Clinician's View of Neuromuscular Diseases
(2nd edition)
Michael H. Brooke, MD (1986)
Williams & Wilkins, 428 East Preston Street, Baltimore, MD 21202. 388 pp., $39.50.

This long awaited new edition of Michael Brooke's basic text on muscle diseases, which was first published in 1977, reflects the tremendous strides that have been made in the understanding of neuromuscular diseases, particularly the impact of the advances in biochemistry and immunology on the understanding and treatment of these diseases. The book is intended for the physician (neurologist, orthopedist, pediatrician, and general practitioner).

However, the first chapter on signs and symptoms of neuromuscular diseases is helpful to the occupational therapist working with patients with neuromuscular diseases. Of special benefit are the author's assessment of muscle strength and his functional evaluation and grading system. The most relevant chapters on diseases encountered by the occupational therapist are entitled Diseases of the Motor Neuron, Diseases of the Neuromuscular Junction, Muscular Dystrophies, Myotonia, and Inflammatory Myopathies. A section on exercise in the normal individual reflects the increased knowledge of biochemistry and physiology and is of interest to any therapist involved with exercise.

Although rehabilitation is not a focus in this book, it is mentioned in the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy with an updated account of the recommendations for surgery, wheelchair positioning, and bracing. The therapist who is seeking assistance with rehabilitation goals and the treatment of other muscle diseases and a more thorough discussion of Duchenne dystrophy must seek information elsewhere.

Of special note are the excellent photographs and comprehensive bibliographies throughout the text. The author's enthusiasm for the subject and compassion for the victims of these disorders are clearly evident.

This text is an excellent reference for the occupational therapist working with patients with neuromuscular diseases. By understanding the individual functional profiles and rates and course of disease progression, therapists can better evaluate and treat with the long-term picture in mind.

Valerie L. Takai

Philosophical and Historical Roots of Occupational Therapy

As the title implies, this monograph examines the philosophical and historical roots of occupational therapy, with a special emphasis on mental health. Included in this volume is an excellent biographical description of Adolf Meyer, which includes numerous quotations from his publications. The aims and principles of psychobiology, developed by Meyer, which emphasize the mind-body unity and the integration of the individual, are presented. Meyer also emphasized the need for individuals to be involved in mentally integrating activities that provide meaning and direction to life. These ideas provided the basis for occupational therapy practice.

The book also reflects the influence of the philosophies of John Dewey and William James on the development of psychobiology, habit training, and occupational therapy.

The work of Eleanor Clarke Slagle is cited with excerpts from her writings and descriptions of her "habit training program." Included also is a heretofore unpublished 1937 address by Adolf Meyer honoring Eleanor Clarke Slagle as the "personification of occupational therapy."

Although this volume describes only the mental health aspects of occupational therapy's philosophy and roots, it highlights the evolution and purposes of the field in a way that can relate to all areas of occupational therapy and provide a basis for today's emerging practices.

Helen L. Hopkins