

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Hand Therapy*, Lynn Cheshire & Maureen Salter, eds., pp. 325, 2000. Price £35.00. ISBN: 07506 1686 5. Butterworth-Heinemann, Oxford.

This book aims to cover the principles of hand therapy as well as the practice. It is edited jointly by a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist and is contributed to by 15 authors. The attractive philosophy behind the book is outlined in the introduction with the following key principles: Early intervention; Regular and timely, sometimes highly intensive, interventions; A holistic, client centred approach in an empathetic environment; Sound interdisciplinary teamwork; Effective management and professional education.

The initial chapter that overview hand function is followed by an "assessment chapter" with some excellent parts, e.g. on assessment of range of motion and muscle power. However, a more distinct emphasis on the importance of reliable and valid assessment instruments would strengthen this chapter. The following four chapters cover psychosocial

aspects, pain, treatment, and principles of joint mobilization. The chapter "Psychosocial aspects of hand therapy" makes this book rather special. The reader is guided through the complexity of psychosocial aspects of hand therapy from a wide perspective, in a very comprehensive text. Further chapters outline interventions for specific patient groups. Management of occupational hand disorders and the musician's hand and also splinting is discussed in specific chapters, and the last part is dedicated to treatment of the rheumatoid hand.

This well-presented book is a valuable contribution to practice-oriented literature for therapists with experience from hand therapy.

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*Orthotics and Prosthetics in Rehabilitation*, Michelle M. Lusardi & Caroline C. Nielsen, eds., pp. 632, 2000. Price £75.00. ISBN 075069807 1. Butterworth-Heinemann, Oxford.

Orthotics and prosthetics is a key issue in the field of neurological and musculoskeletal rehabilitation. The goal of the editors in preparing the manuscript had been to provide a detailed resource for the students in rehabilitation fields, as well as comprehensive reference for the clinicians. The contents of the book opens many challenging issues for the clinicians in rehabilitation, but after a while the book seems to be more suitable for classrooms of rehabilitation medicine and physical and occupational therapists. The atmosphere of the contributing authors is located in the USA. The references from other continents are very uncommon, some of them not very new. The book is a huge package of information. It is physically heavy with more than 600 pages and covers items of multidisciplinary teamwork, basic physiology, biomechanics, materials used, orthotics of lower and upper extremity, spinal orthoses, prosthetic management of lower and upper extremity amputations. There

are also chapters concerning burn care and fracture management. It has specific chapter concerning rehabilitation for children with limb deficiencies. The editors have tried to collect a true interdisciplinary perspective. Part of items of the basic physiology, biomechanics, and medicine might have been better to leave for the specific books of those sciences. The pictures are only black and white, partly old-fashioned, and that is why the pages reflect a somewhat monotonous feeling. In the next edition the comprehensive text would deserve to have a little more attractive outlook and layout. However one has to emphasize that the book includes huge amount of valuable knowledge of orthotics and prosthetics.

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