

BOOK REVIEW

Rethinking Rehabilitation; Theory and Practice, Kathryn McPherson, Barbara E. Gibson, Alain Leplege, pp. 324, Hardcover, 2015. ISBN-13: 978-1482249200 ISBN-10: 1482249200. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, USA

This is an interesting and unusual book. Its aims is set out clearly: to help those who practise rehabilitation to reflect on their practice.

It first looks back at the development of the Disability Rights Movement; this is timely given some politicians' views about the competence or needs of people with disabilities. It briefly sets this movement in the context of the history of rehabilitation itself.

It discusses related ideas of normality and raises questions about the search for normality in adults undergoing rehabilitation but also in paediatric rehabilitation. Some will not have encountered these challenges and need to be aware of the assumptions they may be making as they practise.

I enjoyed the exploration of words in their restricted meanings which we use and the less restricted ways they are used in everyday speech and the exposition of movement as a (post-

modern) metaphor was fascinating. The section on philosophy in action should be most useful as it is not easy to get such a clear exposition in relation to our practice.

Some sections such as learning, and measurement are better done elsewhere. There was some repetition of the history of the Disabled Rights Movement.

I don't think this book is best read in one sitting; sections of it such as those which deal with our behaviour and attitudes to each other and to patients and our unspoken cultural values might be useful to debate among students and practitioners. It would be good to expand practitioners' awareness of the existence of very different cultural values (such as the native people of Australia); hopefully some will work, even briefly, in less well-resourced parts of the world and it is most important to recognise the values which we unconsciously carry with us.

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