

BOOK REVIEWS

Amputations and Prostheses. Vitali, M.; Robinson, K. P.; Andrews, B. G.; Harris, E. E. Baillière, Tindall. London & Johannesburg, 1978. Available from Collier-MacMillan S.A. (Pty.) Ltd., P.O. Box 17, Kempton Park 1620 at R19,15.

This new book is a valuable resource for physiotherapists and students as it achieves its objective "to unite the stump and the prosthesis to form a single locomotor unit". The contents of the book cover both upper and lower limb amputations and the illustrations are excellent. The historical survey and statistics and trends in Britain are interesting. The chapter on rehabilitation gives a clear overview of the factors involved in restoration of function and the social rehabilitation of the amputee. The section on the clinical requirements for prosthesis and the advantages and disadvantages of current prosthetic devices is clear and useful.

The greatest part of this book describes the indications for amputation and the techniques of surgery and links these with the appropriate prosthesis for the upper and lower limb. The final chapters discuss the post-operative changes and care of the stump and future trends in the development of prosthesis.

This book is well indexed and has two pages of references for further reading. It will prove to be a valuable reference book for those physiotherapists involved in the rehabilitation of the amputee.

J. A. Gordon

Rehabilitation of the Lower Limb. Humm, W. 3rd edition. Baillière Tindall. London and Johannesburg, 1977. Available from Collier-MacMillan S.A. (Pty) Ltd., P.O. Box 17, Kempton Park 1620 at R10,55.

The third edition of this basic textbook on lower limb amputees is essentially unchanged except that it is now in soft cover format. Part one of the text has been reorganised and some additional material has been included about the phantom limb and the psychological problems of the patient. This material is too basic and superficial to be of much utility to physiotherapists and students. A more comprehensive section on the psychosocial problems and adaptation of the amputee and his family would have been a valuable addition.

The sections dealing with the physical treatment of the amputee are clear, practical and useful. The inclusion of sample assessment forms would have enhanced the text. The use of neurophysiological techniques is omitted in the section on the treatment of flexor contractures.

This book can be recommended as a basic book on lower limb amputees for students preparatory to further study.

J. A. Gordon

1978, Lung Sounds. Forgacs, P. Baillière Tindall, London and Johannesburg, 1978. ±R12,60.

"Cardiologists were amongst the first to see the advantages of correlating clinical signs with physiological events. As a result of this approach, heart sounds are now observed and interpreted with much greater precision. Although the concepts of respiratory physiology have also become an integral part of clinical medicine,

lung sounds continue to be discussed in the language of the nineteenth century. It may be said that lung sounds as empirical signs of disease, have served us well in the past, but their finer points are likely to be missed until the meaning of differences in loudness, pitch and timing is understood". This delightful monograph thus discusses auscultation of the chest in acoustic as well as functional terms and tries to interpret more accurately lung sounds as clinical signs. Chapters headed terminology, acoustics, physiology, breath and voice sounds, wheezes and crackles form the contents of this book. The book is fascinating reading for the physiotherapist interested in treating respiratory conditions and should form part of any physiotherapy library.

M. J. Runnalls

Cancer Rehabilitation. An Introduction for Physiotherapists and Allied Professions. Downie, P. A. (1978). Faber and Faber, London 1978. Available from Macmillan South Africa (Pty) Ltd at R9,65.

Eric Wilkes in his preface of this book states "Now, in an era of economic stringency and escalating medical costs, one sees that high-quality long-term supportive care has not been provided for serious chronic disabilities of an ageing society; and it is to this area that the physiotherapist more and more is beginning to turn her attention". The author of this book describes very simply and practically the approach of the physiotherapist, as a member of the medical team, to the rehabilitation of cancer patients treated by medical means, surgery and radiotherapy, as well as the approach to the terminally ill. Many case histories and references substantiate the physiotherapy treatment. The chapters, a general background to cancer, a general outline to diagnostic methods, an outline of medical and surgical treatments, the role of the physiotherapist in public education concerning cancer and the psychological impact of cancer should provide the physiotherapy student and the newly qualified physiotherapist with the background information necessary to treat a patient suffering from cancer and to fulfil the role of the physiotherapist in the community as regards public education.

M. J. Runnalls

Physiotherapy in Some Surgical Conditions. Joan E. Cash. 5th ed. Faber & Faber. London. Distributed by MacMillan S.A. Pty Ltd at ±R16,05.

This 5th edition is much smaller than the 4th — 318 pages against 475. The reduction is largely due to the omission of certain sections. These are Wounds, Local Infections, Burns, Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery and Peripheral Nerve Injuries.

Burns are now in 5th edition of the author's Textbook of Medical Conditions; Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery in the Chest, Heart and Vascular Disorders, and Peripheral Nerve Injuries in the 2nd edition of Neurology for Physiotherapists. However, the chapters on Cranial Surgery and Surgery of the Spinal Cord have been retained, in almost identical form.

The section of Complications Common to all Operations now includes a useful page on Cardiac Arrest, and Pressure Sores are covered a little more fully, although the use of ultrasound is not mentioned.

General Surgery has been revised by two new con-

tributors and contains a few additions, including a page on Arterial Surgery and useful additions to the diagram of common incisions.

Gynaecological conditions, which merited only three and a half pages in the fourth edition, now have thirty pages giving excellent information on terminology and good hints on treatment. There are a number of small but clear and useful line drawings.

The chapter on Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases has been revised and starts with a paragraph setting out the only conditions under this heading for which the authors consider physiotherapy to be useful. It is interesting to note that nerve conduction tests on the facial nerve are briefly described, as is also the technique of zinc ionisation to the mucous lining of the nose. However, the balance is somewhat odd — whilst twelve lines are devoted to the latter, which is said to be used very occasionally, no mention is made of what the significant difference is, in milliamperes or volts, between one side and the other, in the facial nerve conduction test. This is the sort of information for which the physiotherapy student will be looking and which occupies only one line of print.

Soft Tissue Lesions have been separated from Fractures in the 5th edition. The chapter on fractures is

brief but contains an excellent diagrammatic explanation of compression plating and a most useful chart of common fractures. It is difficult to draw up this type of chart but Miss Patrick has succeeded in summarising the commonest age groups, causes, methods of fixation, times for starting movements, complications and results, very concisely and still left room for additional relevant notes. Students will appreciate this.

Soft Tissue Injuries are briefly but extensively covered and a few pages have been added on the physiotherapist's approach to sports injuries.

The chapter on amputations has been revised and extended and has improved diagrams illustrating bandaging of the above knee stump. Upper limb amputations are also covered and six pages of photographs supplement this chapter.

The chief disadvantage of this book is that, like its predecessors, it is rather too sketchy on much of the physiotherapy details for which students are searching. However, it is still a useful book for introductory reading and for quick reference and should be on every student's reading list. A bibliography is given at the end of each chapter.

W. G. J. M. Moot
Lecturer



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