

BOOK REVIEWS

The Stroke Patient — Principles of Rehabilitation. Margaret Johnstone, Churchill Livingstone, 1976.

The main emphasis of this book is on the total team approach in the management of the hemiplegic patient. Written by a physiotherapist, the role of the physiotherapist is gone into in detail and to a lesser extent, the part the nurse plays right from the early stages. In discussing briefly the role of the occupational and speech therapists, the team approach is completed.

The basic principles of rehabilitation of the hemiplegic patient are discussed, great stress being laid on the need to step up the level of sensory input in order to obtain maximum motor output. Of special interest was the use of pressure splints which were found to be effective in producing extensor response in the elbow and wrist and dorsiflexors of the ankle by adding deep sensory and proprioceptive stimuli (Jobst-Jet air splint and useful.)

This is a well set out text in simple language and is accompanied by good explanatory illustrations. The addition of a short glossary of terms is useful to explain some of the jargon used by different members of the health team.

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Head Injuries — Proceedings of an International Symposium held in Edinburgh and Madrid. Churchill Livingstone, 1971.

The book deals with papers presented at the Symposium which was held to survey the problems associated with head injuries, due both to intrinsic difficulties arising from primary brain damage and extrinsic factors — namely respiratory complications, electrolytic and metabolic disturbances etc. — which complicate the treatment.

The first section deals with prevention of accidents in the infant, young child and adult, care at the roadside and organisation of head injury services in various countries.

A section is devoted to cranio-facial injuries, another to long-term complications and care, including physical, psychological and psycho-social aspects.

In the section of rehabilitation and resettlement only one passing reference is made to physiotherapy, but stress is laid on the availability of large sums of money for building new acute hospitals, while the patient's chance of organised and systematic rehabilitation later on is almost nil.

Emergency care of head and multiple injuries is discussed, as is the diagnosis and treatment of head injuries with all the associated complications.

This is a good book which deals with all the problems associated with the head injured patient and could serve as a useful reference. Unfortunately there is no classified index at the back of the book for reference purposes.

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CORRECTION

A TEXTBOOK OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS FOR PHYSIOTHERAPISTS by Cash is published by Faber & Faber and distributed by MacMillan South Africa and not published by MacMillan as stated by our reviewer in the March issue of this Journal.

Publications Received

Preston Catalogue 1978/9 and International Price List for Preston equipment and materials as of January 1, 1978.