Aging With a Disability

Demos Publications, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010
148 pp., $24.95.

This book was developed from a research contract awarded to the author by the Spinal Cord Research Foundation (SCRF). The purpose of the research was to (a) identify what is known and unknown about aging and a major disability, (b) highlight specific topics and strategies for the development of future research on aging with a major disability, and (c) identify the issues to be considered in designing such efforts. Although there is unevenness and overlap among the chapters, it can be a valuable resource for therapists seeking to broaden their understanding of the topic.

Wendy Coster, PhD, OTR

The book provides occupational therapists with (a) validation of their professional beliefs by a professional who is not an occupational therapist, (b) constructive and practical advice on research topics and methods that take into account P, O, and E variables, and (c) insight into the experiences of those who are aging and have been aging with a major disability for 30 or more years.

Katherine A. Burson, OTR/L

The Body Shop

Janice M. Cauwells, PhD (1986).
C.V. Mosby Co., 11830 Westline Industrial Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146.
366 pp., $14.95.

I found The Body Shop fascinating. More than 200 people, from doctors, patients, government officials, and manufacturers to engineers and others, had input into the writing. The book gives a comprehensive description of the constant struggle of biomedical engineering to find materials that can survive the constant attacks on our bodies—to make the ultimate bionic man. It draws the reader into the world of research where scientists try anything, sometimes even the most unlikely equipment (such as Maytag washing machines for dialysis).

I was amused to hear the body called a swamp. But with all the body’s saline solutions, acids, and constantly shifting and changing tissues, the comparison is definitely on target. The Body Shop tells of the trials, errors, and frustrations in the development of many parts in use today, and gives us an intriguing glimpse of possibilities for the future.

Besides being interesting to read, the book has value as a much needed, updated resource on such things as artificial joints, limbs, organs, vessels, and on such topics as vision and hearing. For example, there are pages covering repairs to the nervous system, to contact lenses, and to prostheses. The ethical, psychological, financial, and legal aspects of treatment are illuminated by case histories.

The Body Shop makes clear that the technology available and yet to come gives us the ability to make in-