problems that the disability presents for the individual but also the impact it has on the family. Treatment issues, strategies, and interventions are emphasized in each chapter to help individuals adjust and to help families modify their expectations and behavior. The book is unique in that it not only addresses the developmental stages, but also applies them to the individual’s disability.

It is disappointing, however, that the book does not identify occupational therapy. While discussing treatment intervention the authors mention vocational counselors and activities of daily living, but without reference to occupational therapy. However, therapists will be able to use the information on treatment strategies for their patients, clients, and families. Therapists working in a specialized field will benefit by reading selected chapters. Students will find this book extremely helpful because Erikson’s theory of development can be studied and applied to specific disabilities.

Olga M. Joplin


This book provides a basic text for physical and occupational therapists who are “first coming into contact with the burn patient,” and it serves as a “resource for those therapists who see the occasional burn patient . . . or for the burn therapist having a specific problem with an unusual circumstance.”

The editor and the authors (the latter are physicians and occupational and physical therapists) achieve their purpose: The book is a clearly written overview of the burn rehabilitation process. It includes chapters on splinting, positioning, exercise, ambulation, and pain and psychological stress management. The authors do not attempt to describe specific treatment methods or protocols but provide lengthy references following each chapter.

The additional chapters on burns in children, treatment of specific burned areas and posthospitalization care attempt to provide a more practical approach to specific problem areas.

The language, although easily understood by the experienced therapist, is perhaps too technical for the early physical or occupational therapy curriculum. Also, the photographs do not contribute significantly to the quality of the book.

This book merits attention because it emphasizes the importance and benefits of rehabilitation to the burn patient.

Alice M. Smith, MBA, OTR


Since 1953, the Muscular Dystrophy Association has helped sponsor 240 MDA clinics covering 40 types of neuromuscular disorders. Occupational therapy is one of many services covered by MDA in the home as well as in the MDA clinics. Most of the other 50 contributors to this book, including physicians, social workers, nurses, medical researchers, and representatives from rehabilitation medicine, are affiliated with MDA clinics. It should be noted that the Foundation of Thanatology provided support and encouragement in the preparation of this volume.

Because there are certain social and medical problems associated with the course of each disease, the basic premise of this book is that in treating the psychosocial aspects of muscular dystrophy, along with the physical disabilities, the goal of care is to enhance the quality of life.

The book is divided into three sections and deals first with “Perspectives on Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.” Included are findings on intellectual impairment, prolongation of ambulation, lack of information provided by the medical profession to patients and families, the issue of death, and the phenomenon of professional burnout. One of the most significant chapters is entitled, “Breaking the Conspiracy of Silence Towards Death in Muscular Dystrophy.”

The second section covers “Perspectives on Allied Neuromuscular Diseases” with individual chapters on Myotonic Dystrophy, Myasthenia Gravis, and several chapters on Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. Central to a number of these chapters is the concept of the team approach and the importance of involving the family as well as the patient in coping with the present and planning for the future.

The final section, “Commitment to Life, Health, and Function,” covers substantive issues. Particularly meaningful is the contribu-