The book, published by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH), is designed to operationalize quality assurance standards in the rapidly expanding field of long-term care. The book comes with an explanatory text on the rationale for having a quality assurance program and tips on how to tackle problems; but its greatest contribution consists of a set of quality assurance charts and reporting forms whose use is illustrated with examples taken from the daily routine of a long-term care facility. Key JCAH terms such as indicators and criteria come to life in the items used to fill in the array of practical checklists, graphic displays, and tracking charts provided for managing a quality assurance system for long-term care facilities. Taken together, these forms cover the quality assurance process from start to finish and provide an eminently useful structure and format for data collecting and reporting. The illustrative material consistently emphasizes measurable and tangible results such as numbers of decubitus ulcers, accidental falls, and uneaten meals—all undesirable patient outcomes whose reduction represents clearcut corrective action and improvement in patient care. This is a basic "how to" book, a welcome addition to traditional standards manuals.

On the minus side, perhaps because of the basically custodial orientation of long-term care, too little space is devoted to rehabilitation and even less to occupational therapy. Assessment of patient morale and sense of well-being, not to mention maintenance and increase in activities of daily living (ADL), is not included and is sorely needed. However, although the illustrative material does not relate to occupational therapy services, the quality assurance system and many forms are still applicable.

With its series of reporting forms and final empty pages for notes, Quality Assurance in Long Term Care is most of all a paperback workbook. However, considering the $25 price tag, its value as a workbook would have been enhanced by the inclusion of blank forms and an index. Anyone looking for the last word in JCAH requirements should not expect to find it here for very long, since the JCAH system is constantly evolving. Despite these considerations and the lack of material related specifically to their profession, occupational therapists will find this book a useful addition to their quality assurance library.

Barbara E. Joe

The More We Do Together: Adapting the Environment for Children with Disabilities

World Rehabilitation Fund, Inc., 40 East 34th Street, New York, NY 10016. 85 pp.

This is an idea book published by the (Swedish) Nordic Committee on Disability. The book discusses the child’s room, dressing and undressing, the kitchen; play and hobbies; conveyance; outdoor play; accessibility; communication; adaptability; the school; suppliers; references; and resources.

Detailed drawings provide number codes for the furniture and the equipment. The description of the room includes the coded items. A number may appear at the end of a sentence which refers to names of U.S. suppliers listed at the back of the book. Each section includes tips and information for visually impaired and blind children.

The book is intended to inspire clinicians to develop new products.

Appendices include a comprehensive alphabetical list of suppliers, a list of organizations and books with addresses and cost, and brief descriptions of the book's specialty topics, such as toys and school.

This book is clearly written, and the cross-coding makes it easy to check the resources. An experienced therapist or a parent could benefit from the information in this book.

Toby Joanne Black

Briefly Noted

The Sourcebook of Patient Education Materials for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Sandra J. Koch, Editor (1986).
741 pp. $17.95

If you wish to become more knowledgeable in any area of physical medicine and rehabilitation, this is the book for you. Topics include barrier-free design, alcoholism, Alzheimer's disease, traumatic brain injury, legal issues, travel and vacation, tube feeding, wheelchairs, and much more. Alphabetical listings provide information about audiovisual services and publications.

Computerized listings such as REHABDATA and ABLEDATA are extensive. REHABDATA contains over 10,000 documents, including research reports, selected journal articles, conference proceedings, directories, audiovisual materials, and related...
commercial listings. ABLEDATA lists over 10,000 commercially available aids for rehabilitation and independent living. The source book lists specialists in both systems who will help you determine your needs and will direct their database search to meet your requirements.

I believe that the editor’s goal to document at a national level all available educational materials that could be appropriate for patient, family, or attendant education has been met successfully.

Irene Nichols

A Handbook of Experiences with the Application of Wrist, Hand and Finger Orthoses


Library Dundee Limb Fitting Centre, 133 Queen Street, Broughty Ferry, Dundee, Scotland, DD5 1AG.

46 pp., £5.

With the help of many photographs and basic text, this booklet highlights the use of high-temperature orthotics for the fabrication of wrist and hand orthoses. The authors describe a modular system to decrease production time and increase volume of orthoses available for use. “Readers will observe that no use is made of low temperature thermoplastic materials . . . as experience has shown that precise force systems are best achieved with the use of Vitathene and Plastazole.” A brief description of a hand assessment system used at Dundee Limb Fitting Center is included.

This booklet is of limited value as a resource to upper extremity orthotists.

Alice M. Smith

Clinical Gerontology: A Guide to Assessment and Intervention

T. L. Brink, PhD, Editor (1986).

The Haworth Press, 29 East 22nd Street, New York, NY 10010.

517 pp. $49.95.

The articles compiled in this rich resource cover a broad spectrum of topics that encourage the reader to think in innovative, holistic ways about intervention with and assessment of the elderly person. Pertinent research is cited throughout the articles, and invaluable information regarding location and key initiators of current research is provided. Extensive lists of references give the reader access to a wealth of additional information.

The collection of 29 articles is divided into the following subsections: assessment of the geriatric patient; depression scales for use in later life; therapy in later life; family therapy; and related topics. Use of projective techniques with the elderly, assessment of mood and affect in the elderly, clinical implementation of pet-facilitated therapies, suicide in the elderly, management of chronic pain in the geriatric person and application of biofeedback techniques for the elderly are just a sampling of the topics included in the collection.

In short, this publication provides a helpful reference for the clinician, instructor, or the student applying assessment or intervention to the geriatric patient.

Myra K. Meaker

Therapeutic Interventions for the Person With Dementia

Ellen Taira, Editor (1986).

The Haworth Press, New York, NY 10010.

143 pp.

This text, originally published in 1986 (Vol. 4, No. 5) as Physical & Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics consists of 8 articles which focus on rehabilitation techniques for the person with dementia. The need for assessment is addressed in all articles. This small text is packed with useful information. Several creative approaches are covered: pet therapy, weekend day care, individualized programming, environmental modifications, and supportive interaction approaches. A variety of assessment tools are described. The themes of rehabilitation and focusing on individuals’ strengths are repeated throughout. The reader comes away with the sense that much can be done for those with dementia, but that we are only at the beginning. Finally, the reader gains a better grasp of the patience, understanding, and flexibility needed to help these people. This is excellent reading for therapists and students and a valuable addition to the library of anyone working with the elderly.

Judith C. Davis

Quality Hospice Care: Administration, Organization, and Models

Alice McDonnell, PhD (1986).

National Health Publishing, Rynd Communications, 99 Painters Mill Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

308 pp., $36.00.

This text is divided into 3 parts: Hospice Organization, Hospice Models of Care, and Trends, Issues, and Opportunities. It is intended not only for administrators but also for all health care professionals who are working in hospice programs or would like to work with the terminally ill.

This text is exceptionally well organized, detailed, and referenced. Each part provides practical information about the development of the movement and the multiple service models, standards/certification, admission, interdisciplinary team, treatment implementation, and other issues and concerns.

Although occupational therapy roles and responsibilities are not mentioned, this text is an excellent informational and resource reference and a must for all hospice occupational therapists’ libraries.

Kent Nelson Tigges