

## BOOK REVIEWS

by Jerome D. Schein, Ph.D., and Peter Axelson

*Social Security Disability Programs: An International Perspective*, edited by Barbara Duncan and Diane Woods. New York: World Rehabilitation Fund, 1987, 160 pp.

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Two papers undertake a synthesis of disability policies from nine countries: Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. Monroe Berkowitz and David Dean compare these nation's disability systems with respect to diversity of programs, coordination of benefits, approach to disability issues, recency of disability legislation, rate of disability expenditures, short- and long-term benefits, clarity of disability tests, the role of the legal system, methods of financing programs, and related topics. They divide these countries into two groups on the basis of whether administration is in the hands of governmental agencies (Canada, Israel, Sweden, U.K., and U.S.), or shared with trade or industrial associations (Austria, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands). They conclude that many lessons for rehabilitation can be derived from their analyses; e.g., that despite refinements provided by science in selection, definition, and practices, the general philosophy underlying the programs dictates implementation at the client level.

Peter Mitchell's half of the monograph is a synthesis of data derived from questionnaires and a study of national monographs, and organized under six headings: Objectives, Basic Conditions and Procedures, Links with Vocational Rehabilitation, Support Services and Facilities, People Disabled at an Early Age and Workers Disabled in Their Fifties, National Attempts to Reduce Costs and the Influence of Disabled People and Their Organizations.

He concludes with five recommendations. Detailed appendices enhance the work. [JDS]

*Interactive Robotic Aids—One Option for Independent Living: An International Perspective*, edited by Richard Foulds. New York: World Rehabilitation Fund, 1986, 63 pp.

The 14 papers that make up this volume cover robotic applications to rehabilitation in France, the Netherlands, Canada, Great Britain, and the United States. Patients who are considered range from children with muscular dystrophy, through young paraplegics, to geriatric patients. The variety of devices and the nature of the problems touched on are equally extensive. However, since the monograph consists essentially of papers given at a conference, the document lacks the comprehensiveness and depth that would recommend it to first-time readers in this research area. Those already familiar with some of the basic principles of robotics, and interested in its applications, will find many valuable nuggets of information and sparks of inspiration. [JDS]

*The Changing Nature of Work, Society and Disability: The Impact on Rehabilitation Policy*, edited by Diane E. Woods and David Vandergroot. New York: World Rehabilitation Fund, 1987.

Stimulated by two earlier monographs (*The Future of Work for People with Disabilities: The View from Great Britain*, by Paul Cornes, 1984, and *The Clinical Attitude in Rehabilitation: A Cross-Cultural View*, by Joseph Stubbins, 1982), the International Exchange of Experts and Information in Rehabilitation recently held meetings in the United States out of which grew the eight papers that make up this

monograph (all but one authored by U.S. experts).

The theme of the meetings was *paradigm shift*, i.e., the change from one rehabilitation approach to another. The papers examine clinical versus systems-views of the field, with an eye to anticipating the alterations that will occur in rehabilitation as economies and political philosophies undergo transition. Simply put, the papers raise and examine the question: In post-industrial societies, can (and should) vocational rehabilitation continue to base its *raison d'être* on the values of industrial society, with its emphasis on the work ethic? That the answer must be culturally specific appears to be the response of several of the authors. Walker expresses that view in her aptly-titled paper, "Not Ready for Rugby."

Another widely-shared opinion is that demography must be considered in policy-making. While disagreeing about existing disability data, and on the assumptions underlying specific projections from existing estimates, the authors uniformly acknowledge the criticality to rehabilitation policy of reliable information about the present and projected size and characteristics of disabled populations. [JDS]

*Family Supports for Families with a Disabled Member*, edited by Dorothy K. Lipsky. New York: World Rehabilitation Fund, 1987, 79 pp.

As the rehabilitation process increasingly involves family-support services, so increases the importance to rehabilitation of understanding the family in particular cultural contexts. Family professional relationships and the nature of family-support systems are now coming into sharper focus. This monograph's four sections take up these related issues from the viewpoints of authors from Canada, England, Israel, and Sweden. Each relates the characteristics of family supports in its nation, highlighting the lack of a generalized (international) model. In her introduction, the editor underscores this lack of uniformity in the family-support concept even within the confines of the United States, let alone across countries. Nonetheless, the basic rationale—that an intact family contributes uniquely and positively to the rehabilitation of a disabled person—does enjoy a broad consensus among rehabilitators internationally. Readers seeking guidance for their own rehabilitation programs will find this monograph rich in descriptions of ongoing

practices, though understandably short on systematic, controlled evidence of the efficacy of various tactics. With its rehabilitation value so strongly asserted, the concept of family support and the varieties of applications should soon be submitted to research scrutiny that will assess its status and provide rational grounds for selecting approaches to its implementation. [JDS]

*Community Recreation and Persons with Disabilities: Strategies for Integration*, by Stuart J. Schlefer and M. Tipton Ray. Foreword by Fred Humphrey, Division of Physical Education and Recreation, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., 1988, 277 pp.

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This book provides concepts and specific tools for facilitating integrated leisure activities for persons with disabilities, but the text could be applied for developing programs that are meaningful and accessible for all people—not just for people with disabilities.

The authors' attitudes and perspectives on the need for integrated recreational activity are direct and on-target. In fact, this book would make an excellent resource for any physical education course geared toward broadening the student's awareness of providing recreation for persons of all abilities.

Following a thorough presentation of the planning process, the authors address the issues of environmental assessment and modification, behavioral analysis, functional growth, and the evaluation process. Particular attention is given to the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains.

Specific tools are outlined, ready to assist the rehabilitation professional in data collection. These tools are in the form of surveys for the following:

- Assessment of the recreation environment;

- Assessment of the activity;

- Assessment of the functional abilities of the potential participant;

- Assessment of the self-image of the potential participant; and,

- Progress evaluation forms for skill, social interaction, and physical and cognitive development of the participant.

While some of the forms presented may perhaps

be too exhaustive in detail for practical use in the field, most recreation professionals build from their own surveys, and the exemplary programs offered could assist them in applying these new tools and perspectives to their real-world situations.

The closing chapter provides a series of case studies that illustrates the application of concepts and approaches used in a community setting.

Provision of balanced human services is difficult when working with disability population approaches, but this book provides a framework for service delivery that has a generic application to all populations and to all rehabilitation professionals—whether they are social workers, special educators, doctors, nurses, or therapeutic recreation specialists. [PA]

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