

BOOK REVIEWS

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Clinical Decision Making in Behavior Therapy, edited by A.M. and C.M. Nezu. Champaign, IL: Research Press, 1989, 419 pp.

by *Jerome D. Schein, Ph.D.*

Thirty-five years after publication of Paul Meehl's classic *Clinical vs. Statistical Prediction*, it still continues to irritate clinicians who find its support of actuarial methods somehow distasteful. But the editors of the book under review recognize their debt to Meehl and, in keeping with his argument that the actuarial approach frees clinicians to spend more time in therapy, they have induced 12 contributors to join them in applying a problem-solving model to choice of treatment. The five-step model begins with Problem Orientation, progresses through Definition and Formulation, Generation of Alternatives, and Decision Making, and concludes with Solution Implementation and Verification. The cases to which the model has been applied range across agoraphobia, chronic pain, marital distress, obesity, personality disorders, post-traumatic stress, sexual dysfunction, and unipolar depression—all of which have chapters devoted to them. In addition to the decision model, child and adolescent therapy and clinical stress management are covered in separate chapters.

Cognitive Approaches in Neuropsychological Rehabilitation, edited by Xavier Seron and Gerard Deloche. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum, 1989, 411 pp. Illustrated.

by *Jerome D. Schein, Ph.D.*

Cognition, like all vogue terms, has become so over-used and misused that its meaning has been obscured. Recognizing this pitfall, the editors note, "We call 'cogni-

tive' those therapeutic approaches that are explicitly (*sic*) based on a model describing the organization of the cognitive apparatus viewed as a complex architecture of at least partially autonomous functional units. This therapeutic approach presumes that neuropsychological disorders reflect the total cognitive apparatus minus specific altered components. In such a perspective a therapy must be designed on the basis of hypotheses on the locus of the defective and intact processing components" (page 1). The authors of the chapters that follow appear to have adhered to this definition, insofar as it can be followed, as they address anomia, dyslexia, dysgraphia, memory, numerical transcoding, pragmatics, spontaneous recovery from aphasia, therapeutic models of cognitive therapy, unilateral spatial neglect, and use of micro-computers in therapy. The inevitable unevenness in quality of presentations inherent in a multiply-authored text is overcome, in part, by the panoramic view it affords of this field. It is largely a European product, with all but two of the authors from Belgium, England, France, and Italy. Despite this fact, the English text reads well; indeed, it enhances the value of the text for North American readers, because it introduces them to literature they do not usually peruse and because the authors reflect somewhat unfamiliar views. Another refreshing feature of the book is its final chapter, contributed by Alfonso Caramazza, who introduces himself as having ". . . no particular competence in the areas of clinical neuropsychology or therapeutic intervention," but who argues that, "The promise of cognitive neuropsychology as a guide for the choice of intervention strategies is still largely unfulfilled" (page 396). The editors merit congratulations for the inclusion of his contrary views.

Interpretation: A Multisensory
DR, *J Visual Impairm Blindn*

60 first-year university students in a conference were exposed to different sets. Those experiencing tactile plus visual did not acquire more knowledge than those in the control condition. [JDS]

Additional Uses of the Pepper Visual

Watson G, Baldasare J, Whitcomb J. *Blindn* 84:119-123, 1990.

and the Gray Oral Reading Test, 38 persons, 21 to 91 years of age. Scores correlated 0.82, and the

correlation between reading rate and Pepper score was 0.32. Authors conclude that the Pepper VSRT is, "... valid and reliable when used as an evaluation tool in reading for individuals with maculopathies who formerly read at a sixth-grade level." [JDS]

Visual Biasing of Normal and Impaired Auditory

Speech Perception. Walden BE, Montgomery AA, Prosek RA, Hawkins DB, *J Speech Hear Res* 33:163-173, 1990.

To determine the extent to which discrepant visual cues bias auditory perception, authors presented 15 normally and 15 abnormally hearing persons with acoustic computer-generated, consonant-vowel stimuli, with and without visual cues. Persons with impaired hearing proved more susceptible to influence by the visual cues. [JDS]

ion of foreign-language speech predecessor (Volume 1, 1987) on, acquired apraxia of speech, speech disorders in children. The works can be noted by citing two texts allocated to each, and the editor: Kuehn and Dalston's chapter citations, Putnam's has 116 pages, Flege's has 177 pages and 286 references. Annotations of books on human disorders round out the second section. Citations and sources of references in the area. Missing from the two sections by the editor that give some idea of this series: frequency of publications by authors, and other related points

Review by Mark Hollins, Hillsdale, NJ: 1989, 194 pp. Illustrated. *Ph.D.*

Introduction to the literature on blindness with the broad sketch of the field (the nature of blindness, anatomy and physiology, psychology of blindness perception and cognition) and a survey of these topics, however, is treated in a sophisticated reader unhappy about the treatment or ignored. For example, the author's estimates of the prevalence of blindness by the National Society to Prevent Blindness to such made-up numbers as "... help to guide long-term planning" (page 1) should be more helpful when the more temporally distant than near is not topics ignored or only touched upon. Blindness, a condition whose handicapping is often underestimated by most rehabilitation workers, deafness and blindness, which is a source of text. Nonetheless, taken on its own merits, this text deserves a great deal of compacted information, a fast-to-read style and attractively presented, well-chosen illustrations.