

BOOK REVIEWS

by

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AIDS and Deafness Resource Directory, 2nd edition, by National AIDS Information Clearinghouse. Atlanta, GA: Center for Disease Control, 1989. 105 pp.

The directory provides information about national, state, and local facilities offering AIDS-related services to deaf and hard of hearing persons. To be included, an organization must have had one or more of the following: TDD access, sign-language interpreters, and/or educational materials geared to the reading levels of the average deaf person. By its publication, this document comments on rehabilitation in this era.

Demographic and Large-Scale Research with Hearing-Impaired Populations: An International Perspective, edited by Amatzia Weisel. Washington, DC: Gallaudet Research Institute, Gallaudet University; Rochester, NY: National Technical Institute for the Deaf, University of Rochester, 1990. 162 pp. Illustrated.

Few rehabilitationists need to be convinced about the value of statistics on the various conditions with which they deal. This monograph addresses the methodological aspects of gathering data on persons with impaired hearing. It also contains a variety of current information about hearing-impaired populations in several countries: Canada, Great Britain, Israel, West Germany, and the United States. One chapter presents data from a European survey of interpreter services for deaf people, further enhancing the monograph's claim to an "international perspective." The 14 chapters were originally oral presentations, but the editor wisely granted each participant the privilege of redoing them for publication, thus avoiding the annoying impression usually left by speeches gathered into hard covers. Since one of the chapters is by myself, I will eschew evaluative comments. The description alone should suffice to encourage readers to obtain this document and, then, to form an opinion of their own as to its value.

How to Survive Hearing Loss, by Charlotte Himer. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press, 1989. 241 pp. Foreword by Richard Dysart.

Rehabilitationists seeking readings for newly hard of hearing and deafened patients will be pleased by Himer's well-written account of her own impairment. As a former editor, she organizes material clearly and presents it in a highly readable style that will appeal to lay readers. By using her own experiences, the author does much to overcome the initial shock and subsequent stigma that typically accompanies the onset of impaired hearing. At the same time, professionals need not be concerned that she has departed so far from established practice and the current state of knowledge that they will have to spend hours correcting misapprehensions—a failing of some other lay-directed books. Her book carries the headnote: "This book is not intended as a substitute for the medical advice of a physician." Would that more self-help materials were as conscientious in providing similar cautions up front.

Older Americans and Tinnitus: A Demographic Study and Chartbook, GRI Monograph Series A, No. 2, by Scott Campbell Brown. Washington, DC: Gallaudet Research Institute, Gallaudet University, 1990, 97 pp. Illustrated.

Audiologists and otologists eager for statistics about this highly prevalent symptom will find great satisfaction in this carefully researched, excellently presented monograph, supplemented by a 57-item bibliography. Whether one accepts a prevalence rate among U.S. adults of 31.4 percent or 2.6 percent, one must be impressed by the widespread nature of this affliction. Brown has put together an impressive array of data and advances six hypotheses to account for the discrepant statistics. His major sources of information are the Health Interview Surveys of 1982 through 1987, the 1984 Supplement on Aging, and the

1971-1975 Health and Nutrition Examination Survey—all conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics. In addition to the prevalence rates, the monograph presents an impressive array of related data: demographic, socioeconomic, auditory, and health characteristics. Brown does not confuse the numerous associations between tinnitus

and these variables as necessary or sufficient conditions; he wisely concludes that “the prevalence of tinnitus does not have to increase in the future, if the problems of hearing impairment and poor health among older Americans are prevented.”