

## BOOK REVIEWS

Mysak, Edward D., **Pathologies of Speech Systems**, The Williams and Wilkins Company: Baltimore, Maryland. 1976

Reviewed by K.H. Gough

**Pathologies of Speech Systems** presents a cause-to-effect approach for use in the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of speech disorders. The author's major premise is that clinicians who employ symptom oriented therapy techniques frequently are unprepared for interdisciplinary cooperation in dealing with complex speech disorders. As Mysak's approach is based upon a determination of the causal factors of speech disorders, the author begins with a presentation of his basic speech system classification scheme. Detailed descriptions of the Speech Receptor System, the Speech Transmitter System, the Speech Integrator System, the Speech Effector System, and the Speech Sensory System are provided. The book continues with a discussion of the principles and approaches to evaluation and diagnosis for each of the speech systems. Diagnostic categories include: clinical, differential, direct, by treatment, by exclusion, group, instrumental, provocative and tentative. The remainder of **Pathologies of Speech Systems** is devoted to a consideration of backgrounds, clinical manifestations, and treatment suggestions for the communicative disorders which result from dysfunctions within each of the speech systems. The author supports an "individualized" approach to speech therapy which "...derives from an in-depth study of the speech disorder of a particular individual..." as opposed to "type" therapy which "...stems from the simple identification of the client as a stutterer or voice case."

**Pathologies of Speech systems** provides an approach to the classification of speech disorders which is technically sound, but practically unmanageable in the majority of clinical situations. The extension of the classification system as a bases for evaluation, diagnosis and treatment requires a close integration of multiprofessional disciplines found only in major clinical facilities. Further, speech clinicians adopting Mysak's approach would probably require a strong medical orientation, as in-depth study of the speech systems and their clinical assessment is based upon more than a cursory knowledge of the anatomy, physiology, and neurology related to the speech processes.

As a handbook for health-service professionals, the text has doubtful value as a reference source. Since speech and hearing disorders have been classified according to causal rather than symptomatic factors, it is difficult for the uninitiated to readily locate a description of a specific disorder. For example, for information on 'Articulation' the reader must turn to the Subject Index where he is referred to:

"Articulation and its disorders (See Speech integrator: lower-order, output patterning; Speech transmitter: efferent; Speech effector: articulatory; Speech sensor; and see Speech disorders.)"

Referring to the index on 'Speech Disorders', the reader will find no reference to articulation.

The text will be of interest to teachers and graduate students in Speech Pathology and Audiology as an alternate approach to the more commonly accepted and perhaps more

functional symptom-oriented philosophy. However, until the author's terminology and classification systems receive a broader acceptance within the profession, it is doubtful that the text will be of practical benefit to the majority of speech and hearing practitioners.

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