

Book Reviews

THE PROFESSIONAL VOICE: THE SCIENCE AND ART OF CLINICAL CARE

2nd Edition, Robert T. Sataloff,
Singular Publishing Group Inc. 1997
ISBN 1 56593 728 7. Price £218.00.

There is a sharp contrast in the size of the first and second edition of this excellent book. In 1991 the first edition page size was approximately half that of the second and contained half as many pages. Many of the new chapters have been added to the second edition in response to enquiries of readers of the first edition. These include chapters on genetics of voice disorders; laryngeal embryology; understanding of the complex function of the cricoarytenoid joint, non linear dynamics and the implications for understanding voice, the modern clinical voice laboratory, view of the effects of age on voice, ophthalmic considerations in performers, breast cancer and its implications for singers, gastroesophageal reflux laryngitis, the principles of seating and problems associated with improper seating, the effect of pyrotechnics associated with theatrical special effects including theatrical fog, a much expanded sequence of chapters on phonosurgery, vocal injury associated with choral music activities, the role of the acting voice trainer, muscle physiology and its implications for voice training, nursing considerations in the care of professional voice, outcome assessment techniques applied to vocal performance, the impairment and disability considerations of voice disorders and finally, a look into the future of voice care and research.

Dr Sataloff has chosen a wide range of contributors but has himself written 24 of the 68 chapters. This book which is primarily aimed for physicians but which is nevertheless useful to speech and language therapists, voice teachers and indeed performers has now established itself as the undoubted bible of voice care. Despite its increase in size it has retained its original readability and its illustrations have been greatly enhanced. Although voice has not yet been fully accepted as a sub-specialty of otolaryngology in all countries this book should nevertheless be in every department's library, not only as a source of reference but also as an encouragement and source of enthusiasm for people wishing to establish voice clinics.

MR NEIL WEIR
Editor

VOICE CARE IN THE MEDICAL SETTING

Danna Loeh Koschkee, Linda Rammage,
Singular Publishing Group Inc. 1997
ISBN 1 56593 111 4. Price £38.00 (Hb)

Voice Care in the Medical Setting by Koschkee and Rammage is a small book (200 pages) which the Preface notes is designed primarily for the newly-formed voice team, student clinicians, clinicians newly interested in voice disorders, or clinical administrators involved in the planning of voice clinic. In my opinion, it goes well beyond these goals and is of value to anyone interested in the specialist area of voice. It is beautifully written and copiously researched, abundantly annotated with clinical vignettes, charts and guidelines, several of which I plan to copy and display in my voice clinic. It is also illuminated with the humanistic aspects of voice care and the interpersonal relationships amongst and between the various members of the voice team and the patient.

The book takes the reader from the initial chapter wherein the authors explore their philosophy that voice care is 'a wedding of medical technology and clinical practice' through the history and examination of the voice patient and thence to a chapter on instrumentation and vocal analysis which, I was relieved to find, was lucid yet uncluttered with scientific jargon. The latter part of the book describes the interdisciplinary relationships and referrals involving the voice team, then describes both the planning and monitoring of voice treatments whilst emphasizing behavioural and personal issues. It finishes on a high note, discussing the nuts and bolts of developing and maintaining a clinical voice programme and laboratory.

Overall Voice Care in the Medical Setting accomplishes its goal, that of aiding clinicians 'in their interdisciplinary efforts to understand the problems faced and the solutions proposed in voice care in the medical setting'. It belongs on the shelves of every voice clinic.

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