Literary Review

A review of: Training Therapists for Tongue Thrust Correction, second printing, by Ann Beard Ehrlich (1974)

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TRAINING THERAPISTS FOR TONGUE THRUST CORRECTION, second printing, Ann Beard Ehrlich, Charles C Thomas Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, Ill., 1974, 136 pages, with 47 figures, price \$7.50.

This book, first printed in 1970, is a primer written for the purpose of training therapists to provide myofunctional therapy. It is doubtful that the author's purpose will be fulfilled if the reader does not have prior orientation to the subject of oral myofunctional disorders. However, those who have had prior orientation will find a credible and readable review of oral anatomy, dentition, facial growth and development, speech and swallowing. Although the author is both a speech therapist and a dental assistant, the book seems more heavily weighted in dental information. This may reflect a concern for the speech therapists' limited exposure to dental concepts.

Part II of the book is devoted to the diagnosis and treatment of swallow patterns. The author outlines the steps involved in evaluating the behavior and the phases of therapy. Drawing from several sources, she describes equipment, presents procedures, and lists exercises for use in therapy. She also encourages the therapist to be resourceful and creative in the planning of therapy, and in the development of exercises which will meet the individual needs of each patient.

This book provides an adequate introduction to the subject of tongue thrust and its correction. Its main shortcoming is that the material presented has been "carefully screened to include only that which is considered essential for the therapist undertaking the treatment of tongue thrust." (p. 11) It provides little in the way of theoretical and philosophical background, and is limited in the discussion of experimental and/or clinical research findings.

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