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# BOOK REVIEWS

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*The opinions expressed are those of the individual reviewers and are not necessarily endorsed by the Editorial Board of this Journal.*

## Measurement Procedures in Speech, Hearing, and Language

S. Singh, Ed.

University Park Press, Baltimore, Maryland, 1975.  
470 pp., Price \$18.50.

Dr. Singh has edited a collection of 15 papers in the areas of "language, perception-audition, production-acoustics," each of which is contributed by a former student of Professor John W. Black who also contributed an introductory chapter, apparently without the knowledge that this book was to be published as a tribute in his honor. As the title indicates, the focus of most of the chapters is on procedures of measurement that are characteristic of the different fields. The level of the book is quite uneven, as one goes from one chapter to another, some of them being excellent and some of them rather weak. As is characteristic of many collections of this sort that are entering the book literature, it is difficult to review as a whole because such a review would be essentially a review of 16 journal articles. It may suffice, therefore, if emphasis is given to what appear to be highlights to this reviewer.

Professor Black's introductory chapter is a delightful walk through some parts of the history of the scientific study of speech and hearing that are not often treated. He starts with the Leipzig laboratory under Wundt and introduces the reader to Scripture and Scripture's students at Yale. He then traces an important path of descent from the Yale laboratory through Carl Seashore to Iowa. After this brief historical circuit, a second part of the chapter concerns the application of measures, particularly psychophysical ones, to the study of speech and hearing.

In the section on Language, Donald Morehead writes an extensive review of works related to "the study of linguistically deficient children," while Arthur Compton describes more of his own work in applying current phonological theory to examining speech disorders in children under the title "Generative Studies of Children's Phonological Disorders; A Strategy of Therapy."

Under Perception-Audition, the editor, Sadanand Singh, has contributed a chapter on "Distinctive Features: A Measure of Consonant Perception" which is also an updated and extended version of his own contributions published over the last nine years. If his work is less known than that of others in this area, it may be because of readers' difficulty with his exposition. Robert Peters summarizes much of the recent literature on "The Measurement of Temporal Factors in Auditory Perception." The remainder of this section is given to clinical topics. One by Herbert Oyer is "The Measurement of the Dimensions of Visual Communication," and one by O'Neill is "Measurement of Hearing by Tests of Speech and Language." Others in the same group include a very good presentation of "Measurement of Aural Speech Perception and Oral Speech Production of the Hearing Impaired" by Carl Asp, which includes a welcome presentation of Guberina's verbotonal method and a serious report on application and evaluation. A review of "Measurements of the Response of the Ear to Excess Acoustic Energy" by Charles Nixon is an excellent summary of many of the present problems associated with hearing and hearing impairment following noise exposure. Further clinical work is included in an extensive review of "The Measurement of Middle Ear Function," by Jon Shallop, and a final chapter in

this section on "The Measurement of Hearing by Computer," by Robert Mahaffey.

Under Production-Acoustics, Malcolm Hast has produced a very valuable chapter on "Experimental Physiology of the Larynx." More of an experimental study than a review is Yukio Tafefuta's paper on "Method of Acoustic Analysis of Intonation." A more pedagogical contribution is that of Joseph Agnello on "Measurements and Analysis of Physical Speech." A combination of theory, empirical evidence, and argument compares and evaluates methods in the very difficult "Problem of Speaker Identification and Illumination," by Oscar Tosi. Finally, Russel Sergeant reviews the relatively recent literature on "The Measurement of Parameters of Speech Under Water: A Unique Application of Speech Science."

It is difficult to know for whom the book is intended or what its overall purpose beyond the honoring of Professor Black. It is not a textbook in measurement related to speech, hearing, and language because, of course, the successive chapters do not build upon each other as a measurement textbook would. These are individual contributions of persons who studied with and now honor a respected member of our profession. Some of them appear to have intended to teach with their papers, others to review, and still others to report new research. It is a collection that will be included in the libraries of serious scholars of speech, hearing, and language.

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## La Prothèse Auditive

A. Appaix, G. Decroix, and J. C. Olivier

Librairie Arnette, 2 rue Casimir Delavigne, Paris, 1974.  
248 pp. ISBN 2.7184.0145.1 (soft cover). Price not  
not available

This text constitutes an ambitious enterprise in trying to adequately summarize the various aspects of hearing aids and hearing aid fittings in an easily readable manner. Although the coverage is quite thorough, it also is presented in a very concise manner.

The content is divisible into the following areas: Psychophysiological aspects and approaches to the patient, technical aspects, hearing aid fitting, the audioprosthesis stage, pediatric amplification, amplification and the deaf, and ethical considerations and legislation. The technical developments associated with hearing aids is presented in a manner similar in format and content to Berger's text [see K. W. Berger; *The Hearing Aid: Its Operation and Development* (Natl. Hear. Aid. Soc., Detroit, MI)]. The extensive use of performance-intensity functions in speech discrimination tests, and the evaluation of several aids is facilitated in France by means of ten-word discrimination lists as opposed to the usual 25-50-word discrimination tests in the U. S. Although monaural hearing aid fitting is discussed, considerable attention is given to the considerations involved in binaural fitting, contralateral routing of signals family of aids, earmold acoustics, and audiological evaluations associated with amplification. Of some interest is a section on amplification for preschool children, which includes de-

tailed descriptions on stimuli used for testing the reactions of the patient.

This book ideally would be suited for a course in Hearing Aids for Audiology students in the U. S. if it were translated into English. Because of the writing style, however, it would be of interest also to teachers of the deaf, otolaryngologists, and hearing aid dealers.

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### Wave Motion in Elastic Solids

Karl F. Graff  
*Ohio State University Press, Columbus, Ohio, 1975.*  
*xvii + 649 pp. Price \$25.00.*

The subject of the propagation of stress waves in solids has shown remarkable growth both in its analytical and experimental aspects during the last two or three decades. The theory of the propagation of elastic waves in solids was developed by Navier, Stokes, Poisson, Rayleigh, Kelvin, and others in the last century, partly as an extension of elasticity theory to dynamic problems, and partly in an effort to explain light transmission in terms of the propagation of shear waves in an elastic ether. This was followed by a dormant period where there was comparatively little theoretical or experimental progress. This occurred partly because the theory was well ahead of the possibility of experimental

verification except in a seismic context, and partly because investigators were attracted to other rapidly developing fields. The development of new electronic experimental techniques as well as new analytical methods have enabled considerable progress to be made, and this book by Professor Graff is particularly welcome as a lucid and thorough treatment of the subject of elastic waves in solids.

The book is intended to cover subjects from vibrations in strings to the three-dimensional propagation of waves in bounded elastic solids and is intended both as a textbook and as a work of reference. It has chapters on the vibration of strings, longitudinal wave motion in thin elastic rods, flexural waves in thin rods, and waves in membranes, thin plates, and shells. It then goes on to consider elastic wave propagation in three dimensions and refines the treatments of rod waves and plate waves to allow for the three-dimensional effects which arise from the effects of the lateral inertia of such structures.

The book concludes with two theoretical appendixes on the elasticity equations and on the use of integral transforms, which are both quite useful, and which would not easily fit into the main text. The final appendix discusses experimental methods. This appendix is very short and rather sketchy, but does give some useful references for further reading.

To sum up, the book is, in the opinion of the reviewer, a valuable addition to the literature of the subject, and is highly recommended both as a textbook and as a work of reference.

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