Pedaudiology deals with the lesions or impairments of the auditory system, i.e. of sound conduction, reception in the inner ear and perception in the central auditory path. It is also concerned with processing in the function area of the cortex as well as with all the audiogenic consequences of speech, voice, intellect, and the psychological and social situation of children with hearing disorders.

Pedaudiology covers childhood from birth to the end of the physiological development of voice and speech, i.e. to the 16th year of age. Pedaudiology considers itself a discipline which is competent during the maturing period of communication of the human being.

Pedaudiology is a part of medicine with regard to etiology, pathogenesis, diagnostics, therapy, rehabilitation, prognosis, and prophylaxis of hearing disorders in childhood.

Pedaudiology has close relations with Phoniatrics.

Pedaudiology and its results are an important basis also for the nonmedical promotion of children with hearing disorders, e.g. in pre-schools and schools for retarded children. This concerns the control of hearing, speech and voice, as well as the supervision of the efficacy of promotion under audiological aspects.

Pedaudiology helps with political decisions in the fields of education and public health from the point of view of medically important factors. This covers among other things social-medical legislation, institutionalization, rehabilitation, and tuition matters in medical schools. It also includes measures for the prevention of hearing disorders.

The importance of pedaudiology is also proven by the fact that in a population between the 1st and the 14th year of age there are approximately 4% light hearing disorders, 1% moderate disorders, and 0.1% severe impairments. This means that approximately 300,000 children out of 60 million inhabitants of the Federal Republic of Germany require treatment. The number of children aged 0-17 who need audiological care due to hearing deficits amounts to about 180,000 in Poland; 40,000 of them are assessed in order to be fitted with hearing aids.

The aims of pedaudiology – especially the principle of early diagnosis and therapy – become apparent from an economic point of view. An efficient early diagnosis and promotion of hearing-impaired children is not only necessary for social and humanitarian reasons, but also for economic reasons; the means involved – several millions of DM in the Federal Republic of Germany – must be used adequately.

IALP Board Meeting
in Dublin, Ireland, on August 20, 1987

The following points raised at the Delegates’ Meeting in Tokyo were discussed:
that the Agenda for the Delegates’ Meeting be mailed prior to the congress: it was agreed to publish a provisional agenda in IALP News prior to the congress and to have the agenda, agreed at the Board Meeting, available as early as possible on the day of the Delegates’ Meeting; that a permanent secretariat be established: it was agreed that this would be an ideal situation but that given the present membership numbers and resulting finances of IALP this would not be feasible at present.

Other items raised:
Folia Phoniatrica: discussions are ongoing on this topic. It is hoped to encourage all professionals in the field of communication disorders to submit articles for the journal. One way of achieving this aim should be through the Chairs of committees. In addition, changes in format were discussed.

XXth Congress, Tokyo: Dr. Sawashima reported that 289 presentations were made at the Tokyo congress: 251 oral presentations, 20 video presentations, and 18 poster sessions. The congress was also a financial success. Dr. Sawashima and his committee were congratulated, also for the excellent proceedings.

XXIst Congress, Prague 1989: preparations for this congress are going ahead satisfactorily. The first announcement should be received by affiliated associations and individual members by October.

Committee Reports: reports were received from the various committees most of whom held meetings during the current year or had meetings planned for 1988. It was agreed to establish committees on training of personnel in the field of phoniatrics and logo-pedics.

Dr. James Kavanagh, of The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, USA, attended to put to the Board the interest and activities of this body in the topic of middle ear disease and its effect on language development.

It was agreed that IALP cooperate with IFOS (International Federation of Oto-rhino-laryngological Societies) in its aims concerning Worldwide Prevention of Hearing Impairment and Audiologic Training Centers.

Dr. B. Ackerman, Education Officer of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, attended to inform the Board on current moves by ASHA to validate qualifications of personnel trained in countries other than the USA.

The next Board Meeting will take place in Prague, immediately prior to the congress. There will be an Executive Board Meeting in Europe next summer.

Individual members and Secretaries of affiliated associations are reminded that they may send items for consideration by the Board to the General Secretary at any time. Such items will be discussed at the following Board Meeting.

Sr. Marie de Montfort Supple, M.Phil, FCST, DTST, General Secretary, IALP
IALP President Awarded
During the Plenary Session of the ASHA Annual Convention in New Orleans, November 4, 1987, Katharine G. Butler, former ASHA President and Actual IALP President, received the 1987 Honors of the Association, the highest recognition awarded by ASHA.

Greece: 3rd Congress
The Panhellenic Association of Specialists in Speech and Language Disorders hold their 3rd Congress on November 27-29, 1987.
Theme: Aphasia-Dysphasia in Children and Adults: Limits and Possibilities in Speech Therapy.
Cairo: Workshop in Child Language
A 3-day Workshop on ‘Child-Language Diagnostic and Therapeutic Aspects’ will take place from the 19th to the 22nd of February 1988 in Ain Shams University, Cairo.
For further information write to:
Prof. N. Kotby, MD
11 El Ansary Street
Manshiet El Bakry
Cairo (Egypt)

England: Together for Children
5th International Conference of the International Academy of Pediatric Transdisciplinary Education (IAPTE) (incorporating the International College of Pediatrics) founded in 1972 to promote close professional and educational intercommunication between paediatrics and all other child-caring professions.
For information write to:
TFC Conference Secretariat
Congress House
65 West Drive
Sutton
Surrey SM2 7NB (UK)

USA: Stuttering Therapy -Workshop for Specialists
July 11-22, 1988, there will be a workshop for specialists in stuttering therapy at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., USA. The purpose of the 2-week workshop is to provide a situation in which speech pathologists and logopedists can enrich their knowledge and increase their treatment skills. Activities will include lectures, observations, demonstrations, exchanges of ideas through discussions and the learning of therapy skills. For information, write to:
Hugo H. Gregory, PhD
Professor and Director of Stuttering Program
Northwestern University
2299 Sheridan Road
Evanston, IL 60201 (USA)

Wilbur James Gould Voice Research Award to Honor Wilbur J. Gould, MD
Sponsor: The Voice Foundation. To be presented once a year to the interdisciplinary group of authors who submit the winning paper dealing with ‘Functions of the Human Voice’: US$ 1,000.00 award. Call for papers: March 1, 1988, to the Voice Foundation, 157 East 61st Street, New York, NY 10021 (USA).
The author’s work on the fine anatomy of neurons is astonishing. It would be nice if somebody summarized and schematized this tremendous amount of information in order to facilitate its comprehension by clinical otologists and audiologists working with evoked-response
audiometry. The boundaries of neu-rootology are expanding in such a way that very soon it will be impossible for the otologist to range over the whole field. The book ends with a long bibliography (850 entries).

J. Perelló

Book Reviews · Buchbesprechungen · Livres nouveaux

D.R.F. Irvine
The Auditory Brainstem
Springer, Berlin 1986
XI + 270 pp.; 60 fig.; 5 tables; 170 × 225 mm

D.R.F. Irvine, an otorhinolaryngologist, provides us with a very detailed anatomical description of the middle and inner ear but his description of the cochlear neurological ways is very concise. He considered that this is a matter for neurologists and not interesting to otologists. This statement is changing. With brainstem-evoked-response audiometry, the otologist has increasing access to the cerebral cortex and on the other hand sensorineural deafness is now treated surgically. This is why the otologist is now more interested in the auditory brainstem. The book offers complete information on the structure and function of the central auditory pathways. It describes the neuronal architecture, the auditory nerve coding of intensity, temporal information and frequency spectrum, the structure and connections of cochlear nucleus subdivisions of the superior olivary complex, the tonotopic organization of neurons, the binaural interactions, the nuclei of the lateral lemniscus, the auditory midbrain.

Bert C. Touwen

Examen del niño con disfunción encefálica mínima; 2nd ed.
Translation by Carlos Wernicke Panamericana, Buenos Aires 1986 55 fig.

In the middle of the thirties minimal cerebral lesion was described as responsible for troubles of language, reading, delay in school achievement, alterations of behavior, etc. All pathology in children without well-known cause was attributed to this entity. Soon eclectic and more scientific spirits expressed their doubts. The lesion was so minimal that it could not be discovered and therefore it was not exact to speak of it. Ten, as on so many other occasions, the name was changed, but not its contents and from then the term ‘dysfunction’ was used instead of ‘lesion’. The author of the book we comment on is perfectly aware of this situation and offers a careful methodology to explore this dysfunction. The examination is very well systematized, with a clear exposition, accompanied by illustrative photographs and adequate commentaries. After reading this book we shall know what minimal brain dysfunction is about.

J. Perelló

Jacqueline Billant, Gilbert Beugnette
La Structuration Syntaxique du Langage Gestuel de Jeunes Sourds Français

It is a very accurate and well-systematized study, realized by the linguist Jacqueline Billant and by the psychologist Gilbert Beugnette, on the syntax of the sign language observed in young severely deaf between 8 and 15 years.
First, the three perspectives of the study on the sign language that have had different judgments are presented. The authors manifest their opinion on each of these three tendencies. Afterwards, the possibilities of investigation of the syntax of the sign language and the inconvenience that the authors consider each method has, are exposed. From the investigations realized by other specialists of sign language, three general hypotheses on its structure are deduced.

The method of investigation selected by the authors of this study consists in creating different stimulus situations to make the people studied express themselves in order to collect a corpus allowing the explanation of the before-mentioned three hypotheses. Attempting to overcome the difficulties of transcription of the emissions a code is established. In order to analyse them, the authors rely on the analysis of sentence structure proposed by the linguist Lucien Tesniere [in Elements de syntaxe structurale, Paris 1959], who, combining conceptual and formal opinions, discerns in the sentence the ‘actings’ and the ‘circonstants’ and establishes the analysis of the trans-ferings or translations, that is to say, the fact that a lexical unity passes from a grammatical class to another. On the other hand, the authors also use the ideas of grammar in falls, established by Fillmore [1971], to establish the semantic distinction of the ‘actings’ according to the role that each one has in the sequency.

In chapter IV of the book, the authors put in practice the method that, although a bit rigid for its application to its conditions, produced interesting results, exposed in a clearer form in chapter V, where they offer a synthesis of description of the organisation of sign language, relating to aspects such as the omission of ‘actings’ at the beginning and during the course of declaration, repetitions, circumstances, localisation.

The adopted method is certainly original in its theoretic conception. But its application, limited to concrete situations to study determined sequences, becomes artificial, because it does not allow an analysis of language in its spontaneous development. Therefore, the conclusions, although interesting, are not exempt of partiality. We think that precisely because of the inconvenience that the analysis of sign language creates, the method of its approximation must abandon none of the possible forms of its investigation, forms referred to by the authors in chapter II of the book; because all the possibilities are useful and necessary to elucidate organisation of the sign language used by the severely deaf.

Nevertheless the book is a valuable study for all the people interested in the language of the deaf and answers perfectly the proposed aim to ‘furnish with a new method, the basic elements to the structure of sign language, from which multiple investigation can be made’.

M. Angeles Rodriguez-Gonzalez