

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY OF SPEECH

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This book by A. M. Kaplan represents a milestone in the literature of speech pathology. For many years the need has been felt for a concise presentation of the anatomy and physiology of the speech mechanism. Up to now the speech therapist has been frustrated by the arduous task of piecing together information derived from many sources not particularly orientated towards speech and attempting to apply it to his particular field of work.

Kaplan states that his study "attempts to unify the present known and prominent anatomical and physiological data into an orderly account of the normal sensory and motor aspects of speech". He directs the text to students of speech.

He has as the central theme of the book the operational method by which man transmits information. He considers the importance of the fact that the structures involved in speech production were not primarily concerned with speech.

The text covers the regulators of speech (nervous, autonomic, and endocrine), the respiratory system, the

larynx, the velopharyngeal mechanism, the nose and sinuses, the structures for articulation and the ear as a sound receptor.

In his discussion of each aspect of the speech mechanism, Kaplan always attempts to relate anatomical and physiological facts to speech production. His discussion of the larynx as "the structure for phonation" and his chapter on the applied anatomy and physiology of the larynx illustrate this well. Throughout the text references to speech production occur. e.g. In dealing with the function of salivary glands, Kaplan points out that "With decreased salivary flow, the movements of the lips, tongue, and cheeks against the teeth are accomplished less smoothly and efficiently. This condition handicaps speaking or singing". The speech therapist is thus provided with an abundance of information which leads to a clearer understanding of the problems with which he is often faced.

The wealth and basic quality of the information presented make this book one of outstanding value — an essential to every therapist. Its detail makes it particularly valuable to the graduate therapist, but a little complicated for the student therapist. However, there is no doubt that the beginner could gain much from this book.

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