

understanding and intervening on behalf of the paining person. The jargon of psychology and medicine, however, may pose a major barrier to full understanding by lay readers.

Strengths of the book include a scholarly writing style and high academic level of research, complete reference lists at the ends of chapters, and comprehensive subject and name indices. The extensively documented content contains both classic and current research material. Consistent use of clinical examples assists in clearly demonstrating the use of techniques and patient responses. The logical organization of chapters leads the reader from theory and assessment to one-on-one clinical application, and finally to broad-scale use in a pain clinic.

This text has few weaknesses. Redundancy of some material between chapters extends the length of the book unnecessarily. The depth to which some authors discuss theory is also more extensive than necessary.

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Humanizing Institutions for the Aged

Lee H. Bowker,
D.C. Heath and Company,
Lexington, Massachusetts, 1982

As stated in its title, this book addresses the issue of improving the quality of institutional settings (ie, nursing homes) for older adults. The author's approach synthesizes his qualitative observations of four geriatric facilities and his background in penal system research. Nursing homes, like correctional institutions, are defined (using Goffman's terminology) as "total institutions." Parallels are drawn between the two settings, highlighting the restriction, loss of control, and dehumanizing influences that nursing home residents can experience. To its credit, however, the book is not written as a condemnatory exposé against nursing homes; critique is clearly downplayed in favor of building toward a framework which would encourage humanization, presented in chapters 5 and 6.

Despite the author's constructive intentions, however, a reader with background in gerontology will not find very much in the way of new information. To a large extent, the book restates arguments often raised against the traditional medical model of care, using the logic that a medical model leads to institutional totality, which in turn leads to dehumanization of residents. The

author's "equation" (as it is called) is just that straightforward. Several moderating factors for the equation are listed, but not elaborated. In addition, although the parallel with prisons is a provocative one, it is not developed in the text. As a result, the hazards and failings attributed to institutions for the elderly simply sound like those which are approaching the status of a common litany. Along these same lines, the final set of recommendations for change to humanize institutions contains little that is new to gerontological literature.

The description and discussion of the four research sites are fraught with ambiguity: no empirical data from the homes are presented in any context whatever; brief written sketches about the facilities are used to illustrate points considered important by the author, but the settings are not analyzed in depth; and we are not told how the qualitative observations were organized or summarized as a foundation for what is said about dehumanization or humanization elsewhere in the book. In effect, discussion of the four facilities and the overall study that involved them stand largely apart from the rest of the book.

Chapter 5 may be the most useful. In it, the author makes a good effort at schematizing areas usually identified as areas of shortcoming in institutional settings and therefore also areas for improvement. Chapter 1 raises some essential issues relevant to institutional settings, and sets out a criterion for humanization (which is subsequently used more in spirit than in particulars). Chapter 3 may also be of interest in so far as it presents a range of perspectives expressed by institutional residents and staffs and briefly sketches parallels in correctional settings.

In sum, the book suffers not from a lack of helpful ideas but from relative absence of thorough follow-through (and of referencing to primary sources). Patient educators are not likely to learn a great deal about the internal dynamics of nursing homes, or about designing health education in such settings. The book was not written for such a purpose, nor specifically for a health-educator audience.

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The Economics of Educational Media

Leslie Wagner,
St. Martin's Press, New York, 1982

Educational media may well be becoming a more integral part of health- and patient-education programs, but the use of media requires thoughtful decisions on the part of program planners and evaluators. This book in-

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