



# Disorders of Human Communication 7

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## Margaret Edwards Disorders of Articulation

Aspects of Dysarthria  
and Verbal Dyspraxia

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# Preface

The title of this book may at first appear to be somewhat restrictive in its use of terminology. However, this is far from the intention of the writer; on the contrary, the following chapters seek to reflect a departure from the traditional segmentally orientated approach to this type of disability. Indeed one reason why the book has been written is the sense of frustration arising out of the largely ineffectual static and structural methodology of remedial work.

Alternative titles could have been Disorders of Speech Production, or Neurogenic Speech Disorders, but neither would have encapsulated the essence of the book.

Much of the recent research in the neurophysiology of motor control and also in the field of neurolinguistics has been concerned with ways in which intention and planning of movement is effected. Such models are still in their infancy, but it seems the potential value of their application to speech is considerable. In the case of verbal dyspraxia, for example, we have long since in rather vague terms described it as a disorder of organization and programming without ever stating exactly what may be disorganized or not properly planned.

This book does not provide the answer for as yet there is insufficient data on which to work so that formulated theories may be tested and further defined. But as we move from speculative guess-work towards established fact so the likelihood grows of providing more positive help for those who suffer these drastic limitations in communication.

This work therefore is not intended to be a comprehensive account of articulatory disorders but is rather a selection of those conditions which best exemplify disorders which appear to be associated with the planning and control functions of the central nervous system.

While the focus is on supraglottic articulatory aspects, it will be readily apparent to the reader that a fragmented account such as the title might imply

is unacceptable and that throughout the text there is an endeavour to stress the holistic nature of speech production.

As well as informing, it is hoped that the ensuing chapters will act as a stimulus to those clinicians who have access to such a wealth of information based on clinical experience. Perhaps they will examine their records more closely with the object of either substantiating or refuting the views expressed herein and in turn of generating further work which may help their patients.

London, June 1984

**Margaret Edwards**

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Lastly Elizabeth Jennings has without a murmur of protest painstakingly transcribed the frenetic writing into neat and legible type and I am indeed grateful for her support.

With all this help, the blame for shortcomings within the book must be mine alone.

**Margaret Edwards**

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