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Book Review

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BOOK REVIEW

Research and Practice in Deafness: Issues and Questions in Education, Psychology, and Vocational Service Provision, edited by Olga M. Welch, (Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, IL, 1993).

During my first semester in college I was assigned to write a book report on various sections of "The Plague," by Albert Camus. I recall praying in hope that not all of my college education would be so arduous. However, upon completing the assignment, I felt as though my knowledge of philosophy and awareness of life had been significantly increased.

Similar feelings arose when I received this latest book in the mail, "Research and Practice in Deafness." It brought back that feeling of having a laborious book to read. Fortunately, I was pleasantly surprised, for my thoughts and feelings changed swiftly to interest upon perusing the table of contents. Not only is this book well organized, but the topics are timely and progressive. I also found the list of contributors (Greg Long, Glenn B. Anderson, David S. Martin, et al.) to be very impressive.

The format is divided into four sections: (Ia) *Education and the Hearing Impaired*; and (Ib) *Elementary, Secondary, and Postsecondary Education*. Each chapter addresses a specific facet of Deafness that allows the reader to work along a

continuum of young children to transitional issues. (II) *Issues in Psychology* has three chapters that deal with cognition, an interesting critique of current research on deafness by Howard Pollio and Marilyn Pollio, and an important chapter concerning the quality of mental health services. Section (III) *Vocational Services Issues*, provides an excellent beginning for the understanding of vocational service issues. The section includes chapters on habilitation, rehabilitation, and community based centers. Section IV, *Conclusions*, takes aim and fires on research, and how it is being conducted. Some will find this section controversial at best, and others will respect the wisdom of the authors. It was fascinating to read these two chapters that were written with such passion and conviction.

I found the book to be informative and thought provoking in that as a graduate student I am continuing to learn in leaps and bounds about deafness. Like my first book report, I now find myself with greater awareness, insight and knowledge in deafness. For the seasoned professional, "Research and Practice in Deafness," should prove to be refreshing reading, and I am confident this book would be an asset to one's personal library.

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