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## **Whatever Happened to Corrective Gymnastics?: An Historical Analysis of Kinesiotherapy and Allied Fields**

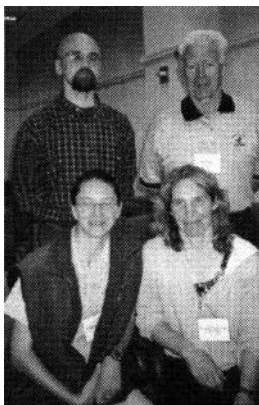
Since the 1980s, a specialized option within some Departments of Physical Education has emerged called Kinesiotherapy (KT). Kinesiotherapists provide rehabilitative exercise and education under the prescription of a licensed physician. KT textbooks present their history as beginning in the years immediately following World War II when corrective therapists began working in the rapidly expanding Veteran's Administration Hospital System. They do, however, recognize their roots in Corrective Therapy/Corrective Gymnastics, which goes back much further than the 1940s. In fact, prior to 1987, the professional association for KT was called the American Corrective Therapy Association.

As one begins to explore the history of rehabilitation, a fascinating, complex web emerges that connects a variety of

"allied fields" (such as Athletic Training (AT), KT, Physical Therapy (PT), Therapeutic Recreation (TR), Adapted Physical Education (APE), and Occupational Therapy (OT)) that today argue they are all distinct professions. How are these groups different? The practitioner within each field is able to easily describe the distinctive nature of his or her specialty. To the layperson, however, it is difficult to tease out the variations.

Few analytical histories exist that focus on the area of rehabilitation. The histories written by those within the KT profession and other allied fields are mostly descriptive in nature and tend to lack an analytical framework. An exception is Gritzer and Arluke's The Making of Rehabilitation: A Political Economy of Medical Specialization, 1890-1980. This study examines the emergence of specializations within rehabilitative medicine, focusing on the division of labor that emerges in physical and occupational therapy. However, this work does not examine the unique contributions from Departments of Physical Education to the history of rehabilitation. Jan Todd in Physical Culture and the Body Beautiful: Purposive Exercise in the Lives of American Women, 1800-1875 offers an insightful analysis of women's attempts to control and educate their bodies. She presents an examination of George Taylor's influence on Catharine Beecher that provides an excellent foundation for an assessment of the influence of Swedish gymnastics on rehabilitation within American physical education.

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