

nonwords, their performance was opposite to those for auditory lexical decisions. It is thought that the phonological forms of words could not be recognized correctly in auditory processing, and nonwords were not discriminated from words.

## **Comprehension of Metaphor in Hearing-Impaired Children**

Yutaka YOSHIOKA and Jun TANEMURA

This study was designed to investigate the comprehension of metaphor in hearing-impaired children. Subjects were 32 junior and high school students in the school for the deaf. The stimuli were 3 kinds of metaphor sentences, namely, idioms, perceptual metaphors and conceptual metaphor sentences. Comprehension was measured by multiple-choice tasks. Receptive vocabulary age was measured by Picture Vocabulary Test (PVT) using kana characters.

The major findings were as follows :

- 1) The correct response rate was the highest for idiom sentences, followed by perceptual metaphors and conceptual metaphors, which was significantly low.
- 2) There were no significant differences with regard to school year and hearing level.
- 3) There were significant differences between the children who had receptive vocabulary ages over 12 years old and those with receptive vocabulary ages under 12 years old. An 80% correct response rate was considered to be a good comprehension of metaphor.
- 4) Literal interpretation decreased in high school students.

From these results, the mechanism of metaphor comprehension in hearing-impaired children is discussed.

## **Classification and Discussion on the Law of Medical Care**

Megumi ONO and Kazuhiko KIMURA

1. The concept of medical care includes not only treatment but also prevention and rehabilitation. Therefore, we will designate four functional classifications : regulation, prevention, environment and fundamental laws.

2. No difference in the amount of official support for desirable medical care between public hygiene and social service.

It is desirable to enact new fundamental law to bring together welfare and medical care.