

Surprisingly the skin, that encloses and delimits the body, is also -because of the richness of its sensory innervation - a major tool in perceiving the world and all it contains. Wholly carried and transported by a mobile and deformable body, the tactile sense functions via Actions. Whether these are "perceptive-type" actions such as the act of touching, or "normal-type" actions, all of which warp the skin, that then ensures - along with other sensory channels – a person's own perceptive faculties. Thus the skin is a genuine interface between the self and the non-self, unifying these two dimensions and bringing about a functional connection. Sensory tactile perception may be profoundly altered following peripheral or inner lesions, but often also because particularly manual motricity - that provides it with life - is itself altered.

Claude Spicher's considerable clinical experience authorizes him to offer a practical manual concerning the rehabilitation of the cutaneous senses. However, his undertaking, remarkable as it is in many respects, caused him to seek the very foundations of his hospital practice within the fundamental knowledge generated by Research. This approach – too rarely seen – merits being acknowledged here. The proposed method is based on the skin's particular sensitivity with regards to mechanical vibrations, a sensitivity that is a long established fact. The results furnished by this method permit to rehabilitate that sensory type often neglected and depreciated with pleasure, as the philosopher Michel Serres has recently noted in his work, "The Five Senses".

So, I wish success to this Handbook for Somatosensory Rehabilitation and praise for its author.

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