

Book Review

Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopaedics. A Comprehensive Textbook.

J. P. Fricker (ed.)

Tidbinbilla Pty Ltd., Canberra. 1998

530 pp., £60.00 (hb), £49.00 (pb).

ISBN 0-646-35234-2.

This book contains 20 chapters by 20 different authors (some of the chapters have two authors, and the chapter on Cephalometric Analysis has three authors), and an Appendix on Oral Hygiene Care written by a dental hygienist. The editor's preface acknowledges that a single textbook cannot provide the total of orthodontic knowledge, and hence this book aims to provide the scientific principles behind clinical practice, focusing on key points in the disciplines of biology, diagnosis, mechanics, and materials to help with an understanding of the concepts of orthodontics.

With that in mind, the first chapter covers Development of the Dentition and Normal Occlusion and, in addition to the usual charts for tooth eruption times and sequence, there is a healthy leavening of basic science covering the stages of tooth development and mechanisms of tooth eruption. This is balanced by clinically-related information on third molar eruption and incisor crowding, and the impact of orthodontic treatment on the developing occlusion. The chapter concludes with a comprehensive list of references that enable the reader to follow up various aspects of the chapter content. This pattern is repeated in many other chapters.

A chapter on The Adolescent Patient is both innovative and informative as it attempts to bring the psychosocial aspects of treatment demand and compliance together. It

outlines the roles of patients and orthodontists, which helps to reinforce the concept of the partnership necessary for successful treatment outcome. Another innovative chapter covers clinical photography. Orthodontic Radiography covers the physics of radiation and the commonly used orthodontic radiographs, as well as the more exotic CT scans.

The impacted canine enjoys a chapter to itself and, indeed, is the only chapter that has any surgical detail. The closest the book gets to orthognathic detail is the Prediction Tracing and Treatment Planning for the Surgical Orthodontic Case chapter. This is a difficult topic, but I felt that it was the weakest chapter in the book, and the references were incomplete and did not conform to the 'house style'.

Different chapters cover different appliance types including, Begg, Lingual, Tip-Edge, Pre-Adjusted Edgewise, Functional, and Twin Block appliances. These are followed by a good chapter on the Biology of Tooth Movement. Another new idea is the editor's chapter on materials, which covers wires, aesthetic brackets, debonding techniques, adhesives and cements, elastics, and sensitivity reactions.

I found this book refreshing to read, and a useful source of references on aspects that would otherwise take many hours of literature searching to uncover. It would be suitable for undergraduates who have a particular interest in orthodontics, but is perhaps not appropriate as a 'standard' undergraduate text for the UK. It is certainly a book that all postgraduate students should read, and will bring the interested GDP up to date with much basic science information, as well as providing a sound clinically-based, easily assimilated source of practical and theoretical knowledge.

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