

Book Reviews

Garden of Orthodontics

Giuseppe Cozzani
Quintessence, London 2000
423 pp., £110 (hb)
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It is difficult to know how to categorize this beautifully presented textbook full of glossy colour graphics and clinical photographs. It is too advanced for undergraduate students, too lacking in academic content and text for post-graduates, but it is perhaps of interest to the specialist or trainee who wishes to occupy a few minutes when a patient fails to turn up. The short, stand-alone, sections render it favourable to this approach. A 'coffee table' orthodontic book is probably the most apt description.

The author, or any of the 30 contributors listed in the frontispiece, is obviously a superb clinician and a vast range of cases is demonstrated in a format akin to a lecture presentation. Each topic is illustrated by a series of case reports. There are many clinical tips to be gleaned from these scenarios and the subjects have been followed up long out of retention. The lack of text, however, does detract from one's understanding of the rationale for a number of the treatments.

Basic ideas, such as anchorage and extraction patterns, are portrayed in a visual graphic manner. Some original longitudinal research data is included relating to the stability of lower incisor position, the irregularity index and

change in angle ANB, admittedly on fairly small numbers of subjects. Otherwise the text is devoid of any references. There is also no index, which makes it difficult to co-ordinate subjects that cut across the chapter layout.

The first half of the book is devoted to purely orthodontic 'major concepts' and treatments, whilst the second is concerned with multi-disciplinary restorative topics and the TMJ, with 10 pages towards the end devoted to orthognathic and cleft treatment. Straight Wire Arch appears to be the preferred appliance technique, although there is no statement to this effect or prescription details. Tip-edge, lingual orthodontics, and a number of less well-known techniques also receive limited coverage. Headgear is mentioned as an integral component of treatment in a number of situations, but the illustrations of the whisker and neck strap on pages 176 and 177 do not conform to current recommended safety standards.

If the concept of a *Garden of Orthodontics* is an appealing one it is fair to say that the author, on his guided tour, states at the outset that the reader will be allowed to pause at certain points of interest rather than viewing the landscape in total. Whilst I have no doubt that the author would make an engaging and interesting conference speaker it is hard to recommend purchase of this book which represents a personal clinical perspective, but which is devoid of any overall message or breadth of perspective.

W. JOHN S. KERR