

FEATURES SECTION

Book Reviews

Slide Interpretation In Oral Diseases

Crispian Scully
Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1999
204 pp., Softback £24.95
ISBN: 0–19–263081–4

Slide Interpretation in Oral Diseases is a recent publication by C. Scully that is well worth reading. The field of oral medicine is comprehensively covered in the form of a series of colour photographs. The pictures are accompanied by a brief summary and a few questions. The questions are graded for undergraduate, postgraduate, and specialist use, and the answers given are comprehensive in scope, sometimes including other photographic examples of the diseases in question. The material in the book is divided helpfully into two parts. Diseases are arranged first by location and then by presentation. In each subsection of the location or presentation under discussion, there are 10 diseases presented followed by the answers given at the end of each subsection. The series of 10 photographs commences with diseases that are common and/or localized in the oral cavity, and progresses to rarer disorders and those oral manifestations of systemic disease. The book is most helpful in stimulating thought in the area of oral medicine and is aimed to be used in conjunction with standard oral medicine textbooks. The ordered layout of the book aids its use and I found the questions challenging and interesting. The book is a great way in to the study of oral diseases and encourages the reader to investigate more of this discipline.

Shiona Rees

Optimization of Orthodontic Elastics

Michel Langlade
GAC International, Central Islip, (N.Y.) 2000
224 pp., hb, £139
GAC catalogue number: 27-800-50

This book is written by a French orthodontist and marketed by GAC international with the aim of introducing the reader to the use of elastics in orthodontic

practice. The book comprises 10 chapters describing the array of intra- and extra-oral elastic uses in different malocclusions and is well illustrated with colored clinical photographs, line drawings, tables, and useful summary boxes.

The first three chapters serve as a gentle introduction to elastics. They start by defining the uses of elastics, their history, and classification in orthodontics. The fourth chapter targets patient motivation. It outlines the importance of patient compliance, patient understanding to the placement of elastics, and suggests ways to keep patients motivated during treatment through the use of a scorecard.

The next three chapters describe the use of elastics in Class I, II, and III cases. The attempt to give a scientific aspect to elastic usage by relating force levels to different tooth movements is plausible. It also quantifies the use of elastics from a biomechanical viewpoint and illustrates, with diagrams and pictures, their use in a variety of appliance systems, ranging from simple removable appliances and the Straight Wire Appliance to more complex systems like the bioprogressive technique. The problems relating the TMJ/orthodontic mechanics and clinical pitfalls of elastic wear were also described.

Chapter 8 outlines 10 different ways of using elastics, from the contraction/expansion of transverse dental arch relationships to vertical/horizontal movement of teeth. These are practical and sensible ideas.

The final chapter on the rationale for elastic prescription amalgamates the information that has been acquired throughout the book. A simple quiz section with solutions at the end challenges the reader to apply the knowledge obtained from the proceeding chapters.

In all, this book has been a refreshing way to describe elastic usage in orthodontics. It is well documented with many clinical pictures and diagrams to illustrate different clinical techniques. Occasionally, it is easy to forget the different ways of achieving a good clinical result with elastics, especially when one employs a favourite technique that works well in routine orthodontic practice. This book bridges the gap in knowledge on elastic usage by displaying a variety of solutions to a problem.