

factors which are coming more to the fore in today's Health Service.

Throughout, the book follows a logical sequence through aetiology, the malocclusions and on to the various treatment approaches. Each chapter is beautifully illustrated with numerous colour photographs and there is a very good use of summary tables and bullet lists. In some respects for the undergraduate student for whom list regurgitation at examinations may be obligatory, a number of the lists appear to be incomplete. However, even when such tables are incomplete, the essential information can be

found elsewhere in the book. The author writes in an easy to follow style and further enhances the readability by précis papers and books in the reading list. In some instances it would have been helpful to link the chapter text more directly to the reading list by the use of superscripted markers, but this is a very minor criticism.

On the whole this is a very readable book, useful to both undergraduate students and the interested general dental practitioner alike.

A. J. Ireland

## Prevention of Oral Diseases (3rd edn 1996)

J. J. Murray (Ed.)

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This excellent book assesses the impact of prevention on the main oral diseases. The third edition of this well-known text has been expanded to include chapters on the prevention of dental trauma, diseases of the oral mucosa, prevention in the ageing dentition, and the prevention of malocclusion. Several chapters have also been included to cover the topics of prevention from an international perspective and the oral health needs of the 21st century.

The editor has assembled a distinguished cast of British authors who have contributed to the 20 chapters. The book provides a concise analysis of the scientific evidence underpinning current approaches to the prevention of oral disease. Considering the range of topics covered, this is a remarkably slim volume presented in a clear and very readable way. I particularly liked the bullet-list summary placed at the end of each chapter.

The chapter on the prevention of malocclusion provides a refreshingly sensible

appraisal of the relative merits of early or interceptive orthodontic treatment. Importantly, for a textbook which is aimed at a wide readership, attention is drawn to the fact that early orthodontic treatment does not always lead to less treatment.

Orthodontists are acutely aware of the role their appliances can often play in precipitating enamel damage and periodontal disease. The chapters covering the prevention of periodontal disease, and the impact of fluoride, diet, and oral cleanliness on dental caries are therefore likely to be of particular interest. However, in a world where it can sometimes be difficult to keep abreast of the research evidence within one's own specialty, the other chapters in this book provide a useful update on the current issues exercising other dental specialists.

This book would sit comfortably in any orthodontic library, and the relatively low price means that it is extremely good value for money.

Donald Burden