

## Book Reviews

### Textbook of General and Oral Medicine (1999)

Authors: David Wray, Gordon D. O. Lowe, John H. Dagg, David H. Felix and Crispin Scully  
Publisher: Harcourt Brace and Company Limited, London  
Price: £32.95  
ISBN: 0-443-05189-5

The stated objective of this book is to address the state of knowledge within the dental profession that can be deployed to deal with 'the increasing numbers of medically compromised patients presenting for treatment'. The style of this book systematically covers relevant medical problems in some 200 pages. Another 100 pages are given over to a detailed description of conditions found within the specialty of oral medicine. A particular strength of the structure of the text is the accurate cross-referencing between chapters. This reduces to a minimum the duplication of information from which many multi-author works suffer. This tight editorial control is also seen in the use of the 162 colour illustrations. Excessive numbers of these illustrations would probably have the effect of increasing book cost, whereas a paucity of colour would be a disadvantage to the understanding of conditions with a distinctive clinical presentation. In addition, there are many tables that are set out clearly, and diagrams that are well drawn and easy to follow. For example, summary diagrams of cranial nerve

distribution and coagulation cascade are notable. The textbook is 'written primarily for undergraduate dental students ... and ... will also be useful for postgraduate students studying for exams, especially those working towards the MFDS'. Whilst the didactic style of the text will undoubtedly satisfy those approaching examination at both undergraduate and postgraduate general training level, the increasing numbers involved with problem-based learning techniques might regret the exclusion of source material and further selected reading. The authors have compressed a great deal of information into a small space. As a result, their book is both relevant and affordable. The structure and layout will also allow revision of sections as knowledge develops so that the book can readily be kept up to date. In future editions, they may wish to enhance the text with indications for wider reading. This could only increase the appeal of this excellent book.

Neil Pender

### Color Atlas of Oral Diseases in Children and Adolescents (1999)

Author: George Laskaris  
Publisher: Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart  
Price: DM248  
ISBN: 1-13-11511-4

During consultation and treatment, orthodontists see a high percentage of children, depending on the intensity of medical care, which in some countries can be up to two-thirds of the juvenile population.

Children can suffer from a variety of oral diseases. That means an orthodontist is repeatedly confronted with cases of different oral diseases in children, some of them seen more frequently, others occurring very rarely.

Occasionally, the orthodontist is the first health professional who becomes aware of such a disease and has to refer the child to another specialist. In a certain percentage of subjects the disease interferes with orthodontic treatment, while in other cases the orthodontist has to consider whether the disease is infectious and there is a risk to themselves, their auxiliary personnel, or other patients.

For all these reasons orthodontists should be familiar with child oral diseases. This book provides an excellent overview illustrated with

brilliant colour pictures of relevant cases. The cases are presented in clear, systematic descriptions in three parts, namely local diseases, systemic diseases, and tumours. The book comprises diseases from different aetiology in teeth, bone, skin, and mucosa.

Such a book should be available for post-graduate students in orthodontics and should be part of the private library of orthodontic practitioners.

H.-G. Sergl

### Headache and Facial Pain (1999)

Author: Franco Mongini  
Publisher: Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart  
Price: DM228  
ISBN: 3-13-116541-3

In this book, the author presents, in a very detailed and competent manner, a wealth of scientific, diagnostic and clinical aspects covering the complex issue of headache and facial pain. The classification and pathophysiology, as well as the diagnostic and therapeutic possibilities are described, and shown comprehensively.

What makes this book of particular value for all interested readers is that both practical clinical and scientific knowledge is illustrated in a

detailed and useful way. The available literature is thoroughly covered and a comprehensive reference list is incorporated.

This book will be of benefit to those with an interest in headache and facial pain, and can be highly recommended for all orthodontist where a deeper knowledge in this area is of importance.

P. Scheurer