

Book Review

A Text-Book of Orthodontia. By Robert H. W. Strang, M.D., D.D.S. Price \$11.00. Pp. 731 with 5 plates and 566 figures. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, 1943.

The second edition of Dr. Strang's Text-Book of Orthodontia is in its technical organization and construction basically similar to the first. It is essentially a "how" book dealing with the treatment of malocclusion. This does not mean that the author has ignored recognition of fundamental biologic basis upon which rests the success of diagnosis, case analysis and treatment, for attention is given in the second as in the first edition to gross and microscopic consideration of anatomical structures, to the anatomic architecture of the head, face and dental tissues, likewise to their relation and function under normal and abnormal conditions. In addition new material has been added with respect to the changes which transpire during growth and developmental years. It does mean that to a greater extent than in the previous book these basic biologic considerations are developed with more specific reference to a particular method of mechanical therapy.

The new text is in no sense a treatise of orthodontic science and practice, rather a detailed and comprehensive exposition of a practice program and procedure. There is nowhere in the literature a more embracing discussion of a system of mechanical therapy than in this book. The mechanism is the edgewise arch appliance of Dr. Edward H. Angle as used by Dr. Charles Tweed. The incorporation of this plan of appliance therapy in the practice of orthodontics constitutes the theme of the volume.

In the light of his clinical studies and experience, Dr. Strang is convinced of the effectiveness of this instrument. He has discussed its application and mechanical principles with meticulous attention to detail and drawn upon his interpretation of biologic research and investigation to support its use.

As an undergraduate text the new edition has the same basic fault of the former in that the principles of orthodontics are overshadowed by technique and practice. For use in postgraduate and graduate instruction the volume has much to offer particularly from the standpoint of case analysis and discussion of mechanical principles and their analysis and application. As an instruction guide for practitioners, using the edgewise arch technique as modified by Dr. Tweed, the book should be extremely valuable. Whether these concepts have been adequately tried and their present techniques sufficiently solidified to justify incorporation in a standard text of orthodontics, one must leave to the judgment of time.