

Book Review

EDGEWISE. Earl W. Renfroe, Professor of Orthodontics, University of Illinois at the Medical Center, Chicago; Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia; 494 pages, 779 illustrations; published February 1975, \$35.00.

One has only to study a few pages of this outstanding text to realize that he is dealing with the words of a man devoted to precision, logic and rigorous thinking. Making no attempt to infer that similar results may not be gained by other methods, there is the implicit stand that edgewise technique is the equal of others. It is explicitly stated that though the technique can be readily learned by any interested dentist, only grounding in the basic sciences permits its successful application: the "when" to interfere in a given problem is the crux of the matter.

Dr. Renfroe's thesis is to instruct in the fundamentals of the appliance rather than to answer the myriad treatment problems confronting one in clinical practice. Approximately forty per cent of the text is given to technique; the remainder deals with classification of malocclusions, treatment planning and application of the edgewise appliance to malocclusions representative of the three classes first delineated by Dr. Angle. Patient records include standardised pairs of cephalometric roentgenograms, tracings of the lateral head-plates and their analysis (based on the Downs analysis and the wiggle chart as developed by Vorhies and Adams) as well as the conventional plaster casts, photographs, and dental x-ray films. All are described and their significant features sorted out for their relationship to the problem at hand and application to the treatment plan.

Relative to superposing tracings of the "before" and "after" lateral head x-rays, the author uses Frankfort hori-

zontal and the "pterygoid vertical" planes. The latter is shown as a perpendicular dropped from Frankfort and tangent to the posterior edge of the pterygomaxillary fissure. No information on this registration method is given as to its origin or its degree of reliability. The Bolton plane, Bolton point and "R" point are neither illustrated in tracings nor discussed. This text does not pretend to study cephalometric procedures but the original and time-tested methods of the Bolton Study would seem to justify explanation as to their omission. Admittedly there are numerous registration methods which are valid, including that selected by Dr. Renfroe.

A few comments on several of the treated malocclusions may not be amiss. These were all treated by graduate students which accounts for the duration of treatment but the position of the lower dentures of several patients appears unstable. While all show excellent occlusal interdigitation, the excessive labial inclination of the incisors could only be maintained, I think, by permanent retention. At one point Dr. Renfroe states that case reports at orthodontic meetings usually include clinical records made five years after removal of retainers. It would seem this might well have been used in these instances. For myself, records two years after retention are satisfactory.

In the author's "Conclusion, Part I," of his text he states his attempt "... is to lay a foundation of knowledge and understanding of the edgewise appliance." Part II demonstrates the use of the appliance in several examples. On both counts he has fully succeeded in a highly literate and cogent manner. "Edgewise" is regarded as an unqualifiedly successful addition to orthodontic literature.

M.R.N.