

Book Review

Development of the Human Dentition

—*An Atlas*, by Frans P. G. M. van der Linden, D.D.S., Ph.D., and Herman S. Duterloo, D.D.S., Ph.D. Harper and Row, publishers.

This atlas prepared by van der Linden and Duterloo depicts the continuous process of human dental growth and development as nine distinct phases. The series of stages focus upon the areas of maturation which can't be readily observed in the living specimen. The skull, dentition, and dento-alveolar anatomy are of specific interest throughout the various illustrations. It is related by the authors that most of the skulls originated in India and, therefore, show features frequently observed in the Indian population.

The sequence begins with the prenatal phase and progresses through old age. The prenatal section is presented as photographs of lateral and frontal radiograms below which are line drawings illustrating the developing tooth positions. Included are close-up black and white pictures of the gross alveolar processes typical of a fetal skull at this age. General remarks pertaining to this particular stage are made at the beginning of the section. Presentation of the material is essentially visual with the text limited to comments of clarification for better understanding of the illustrations.

The second section, *From Birth to the Complete Deciduous Dentition*, follows the same format. Black and white frontal and lateral photographs of the skulls, alveolar processes, and teeth as they erupt in sequence are captioned

for clarity on each page. This chapter begins the descriptive technique used by the authors in dissecting the buccal alveolar plate. It is continued throughout the atlas in succeeding chapters and is extremely educational. This procedure illustrates the position of each tooth and its juxtaposition to adjacent ones. Line drawings of fine quality accompany each photograph. Another technique detailed in chapter nine is that of dissecting the developing crown of each tooth to expose the internal architecture of the bony crypt and alveolar process.

Chapter three, corresponding to the deciduous phase until transition, continues with the same system of presentation. It keenly portrays by dissection the positions of the permanent teeth relative to the deciduous as they mature toward emergence.

Chapters four through eight are sequentially descriptive of the various periods of occlusal development continuous to the aging process. All are similarly illustrated and captioned as previously described.

Chapter nine is devoted to the developmental characteristics of the alveolar process. In this section the authors illustrate and outline individually the growth of the alveolar processes, anterior, buccal, maxillary and mandibular.

Drs. van der Linden and Duterloo have indeed composed an atlas of great value particularly pertinent to graduate and undergraduate orthodontic education.

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