

Letters

Congratulations on Golden Scroll

My most hearty and sincere congratulations for the wonderful honor bestowed upon you with the Golden Scroll Award. I have watched the development of *The Angle Orthodontist* with great interest and continue to be pleased with the changes. The latest issue (Volume 61, Number 1, Spring 1991) which arrived today is the best yet.

—William S. Parker, DMD
Sacramento, Calif.

Another orthodontist who made the headlines

Dr. Norman Wahl's commendable call for greater attention to the history of our specialty (Historians in the Headlines, *Angle Orthod* 1991; 61:67-70) was disappointing only in his failure to mention Wilbur Morse Shankland. Dr. Shankland, a professional historian and author of *The American Association of Orthodontists' Biography of a Specialty Organization*, was invited by the AAO to compile the Association's official history.

As long as history is the subject of this communication, permit me to point out that Dr. Shankland's father was a classmate of Herbert Hoover in Stanford University's first graduating class (1895); he also counted among his relatives, painter and inventor Samuel F.B. Morse.

—Dr. Richard R. Rutter
Member, American Academy
of the History of
Dentistry

Bacterial endocarditis prophylaxis for adjustments?

A pediatrician friend just sent me a copy of a pediatric journal article which mentions two teenage orthodontic patients who developed bacterial endocarditis 10 days after adjustment of orthodontic appliances. The comment following the article recognizes the casual association between orthodontic adjustment and endocarditis, but recommends prophylaxis in any child with known heart disease, pending clarification of the relationship.

Most of us are aware of the possibility of a bacteremia during the banding phase of treatment and patients with known heart defects are covered with prophylactic antibiotics at the discretion of their physicians. However, I am not aware of the suggestion that this could possibly be a problem simply through orthodontic appliance adjustment. The pediatric journal article suggests a larger study is needed to determine whether bacterial endocarditis prophylaxis should be recommended for adjustment of orthodontic appliances.

—Robert M. Andresen, DDS
Davis, Calif.