

brain tumor or an adherent artery. The father refused to admit the daughter to the hospital and took her to a clinical neurologist, who, after an extremely careful examination, found no neurological disease and ordered various tests (EEG, skull films, brain scan, and blood chemistries).

All test results were within normal limits. An orthopantomogram was taken at a hospital and read as normal; however, an endodontist read the film as "large caries of the upper right first molar with acute pulpitis and severe apical periodontitis." The patient became asymptomatic after undergoing root canal work.

Comment—It seems wise to rule out dental pathology first, when confronted with a patient complaining of facial pain. Incidentally, many articles fail to mention dental pathology when discussing differential diagnosis of facial pain. Peter O. Bonadero, MD, San Antonio, Tex.

For the health of our patients, we are obliged to be alert in our diagnosis and treatment so that these unnecessary ordeals can be eliminated. I just felt this article might stir my colleagues as much as it did me.

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BOOK REVIEW

Oral histology, development, structure and function.

A. R. Ten Cate

449 pages with illustrations. St. Louis, The C. V. Mosby Co., 1980. 29.95.

In recent years, the choice of textbooks in oral histology, suited to the needs of the North American dental curriculum, has been limited. This text is, therefore, a welcome addition to the field.

The principal author, Dr. Ten Cate, is responsible for nine of the 18 chapters. He has been ably assisted by Drs. A. C. Dale, J. G. Dale, Deporter, Bisermann, Ellen, Enlow, Freeman, Hill, Squier, and Torneck, who have written the remaining chapters. In addition to the traditional chapters, there are important chapters on epithelial and mesenchymal relations, collagen and mineralization, bone, tooth movement, surface coatings of the teeth, and facial growth and development. The first two chapters provide a simple introduction to general embryology and the embryology of head, face, and oral cavity; they will be useful to those students who have not taken a general embryology course.

The textbook is intended to be used in the undergraduate dental curriculum and is clearly didactic in its approach to the material. The text is written in an uncomplicated, comprehensive fashion, and

for this reason (among several), it will likely become a favorite among undergraduate dental students.

Oral histology is profusely illustrated. Many of the excellent illustrations consist of clean line drawings by J. G. Dale. Illustrations are important in morphologic instruction, but this aspect of the book might have benefited from some restraint. Because of the profusion of diagrams, some parts of the book resemble an annotated atlas. This is particularly true for an otherwise fine chapter on facial growth and development. The distribution of illustrations and text also frequently results in excessive and uneven placement of white spaces throughout. These uneven graphic effects are counterbalanced by the advantage that most figures referred to in text are located on the same page.

With rare exceptions, consistency of style and standards throughout the text is the result of tight editorial control.

The chapter on enamel, although good, seems to have slipped somewhat beyond this control in its use of detail.

It should be understood that these are all minor criticisms, and the flaws do not detract from the overall quality of this textbook. It will be useful to many dental students, and hopefully, it will have future editions.

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