Oral Manifestations of Inherited Disorders

By Heddie O. Sedano, John J. Sauk, and Robert J. Gorlin. (Pp. viii + 214; Figures + Tables. US \$48.95; Dfl. 120; £14.50.) Sevenoaks: Butterworth. 1977.

This book is a compendium of the many inherited disorders that have characteristic oral and facial manifestations. Each condition is described briefly under the headings of facies, oral structures, systemic features, differential diagnosis, and laboratory aids. Synonyms are listed and some references are given. It is impossible to devise a logical system of classification for conditions of such diversity, and this text is ordered according to the orodental structures primarily affected. This has the advantage that the clinician will often be able to identify an unfamiliar condition after minimal searching. However, the converse does not apply because the index is quite inadequate: neither the preferred name nor synonyms are included. Thus the clinician ignorant of the facial manifestations of Crouzon's syndrome, for example, would have to search the entire volume. If he were fortunate, he might spot Crouzon's syndrome mentioned as a synonym for craniofacial dysostosis.

This book may be useful for medical and dental practitioners who wish to consult a concise volume of this type. However, for most purposes, the now classic *Syndromes of the Head and Neck* by R. J. Gorlin, J. J. Pindborg, and M. M. Cohen will remain the text of choice because of its wider scope, its better illustrations, and its superior index. In fact, the volume under review is merely an abstract of the larger book, the descriptions being paraphrased from the latter and many illustrations being common to both. On the subject of illustrations, it is unfortunate that so many of the intraoral photographs and x-rays have been inverted. It may be difficult for the printer to tell which way up the teeth should be, but the 3 authors are dentally qualified.

In summary, this is a reliable text of reference, though the lack of an adequate index is a serious deficiency. The organisation of the book is sensible, but still does not provide the complete answer for the clinician who wishes to identify a syndrome without plodding through an entire reference work page by page. Whether there is really a place for another volume in a field which is already so well covered is open to question.

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Oral Facial Genetics

Edited by Ray E. Stewart and Gerald H. Prescott. (Pp. xii + 680; Figures + Tables. £38.60.) St. Louis: C. V. Mosby; London: Henry Kimpton. 1976.

This text, edited by Ray Stewart and Gerald Prescott, helps to bridge a gap between existing books on medical genetics and those devoted to orofacial anomaly. The editors are assisted by 15 distinguished colleagues from a number of North American institutions, each contributing to 1 or more chapters in their field of special interest. The first 3 chapters are devoted to the general principles of genetics and the genetic mechanisms of control during early orofacial development and craniofacial morphogenesis.

Following these are 3 chapters dealing with the genetic background to the 2 common dental diseases of dental caries and periodontal disease, and the genetic factors influencing the development of malocclusions, tooth size, and anomalous tooth development.

Four separate chapters are given to a detailed consideration of the inherited disorders of enamel, dentine, cementum and periodontal tissues, and the dental pulp. Apart from 1 isolated chapter dealing with the genetics of cleft lip and palate, and a brief mention of transplantation genetics, the remainder of the book is given over to a consideration of the orofacial manifestations associated with immunological disorders, inherited mucocutaneous disorders, inborn errors of metabolism, haematological abnormalities, cytogenetic anomalies, and dysmorphic syndromes.

The book is well written, easy to read, and beautifully illustrated by many fine photographs and line drawings. For each of the subjects covered there is a comprehensive and reasonably up-to-date bibliography.

A problem common to many texts employing multiple authors is noticeable in this volume, namely that there is occasional repetition of material. Provided that the contributors agree, this does not present too much difficulty; disagreement, however, may lead to confusion. An example of this is seen in chapters 7 and 8, where different dental manifestations are claimed for the hemizygous male affected by pseudohypoparathyroidism. Another slight irritation is the tendency to pad out chapters with material the relevance of which is difficult to establish. This is present in chapter 9 where taurodontism, an anomaly of tooth