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Literary Review

A review of: Oral Myofunctional Disorders, by Richard H. Barrett and Marvin L. Hanson (1974)

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IAOM INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of OROFACIAL MYOLOGY

Literary Review

ORAL MYOFUNCTIONAL DISORDERS, Richard H. Barrett, M.Ed. and Marvin L. Hanson, Ph.D. The C. V. Mosby Company, P.O. Box 14737, St. Louis, Mo. 63178, 1974, 308 pages, with 95 figures, 24 tables, 8 forms. price $29.50

Until recently, the literature on tongue thrust was scattered in the various journals of the dental and speech professions. In 1970, Fletcher (in ASHA Reports #5) summarized this literature in a 'state of the art' which he later expanded in his book *TONGUE THRUST IN SWALLOWING AND SPEAKING* (1974). Still we had little appreciation for the subject of tongue thrust through the perspective of historical continuity. It was necessary then, that ideas and methodologies be traced from their origins, through stages of development, to our current levels of understanding. In *ORAL MYOFUNCTIONAL DISORDERS,* Barrett and Hanson have written an informative, readable account of the history of tongue thrust: its nature, controversies, and theories of etiology, diagnosis and treatment. The authors approach the subject systematically and comprehensively, assuming limited prior exposure on the part of the reader. The result is that even those with a great deal of exposure will find themselves impressed with the thoroughness and objectivity of the book as well as the clinical and research challenges it presents.

Historically, several implied dichotomies have persisted in the literature on tongue thrust. Consistent with this perspective, Barrett and Hanson compare the contributions of British versus American writers. This comparison prompts the realization that factors which have been viewed as dichotomous are actually artifacts of an historical continuum. Barrett and Hanson note, for example, that with only two exceptions, all of the literature on tongue thrust until 1960 had been written by dentists. In addition they state that "The British orientation in dentistry has historically been toward research and theoretical formulation. American dentists, meanwhile, have shown a propensity toward clinical experimentation." To elucidate, the authors have summarized separately the contributions of each of the following writers. Rix, Gywnn-Evans, Ballard, Tulley, Ardran and Kemp and Leech are cited as representative of the British literature and Angle, Lischer, Rogers, The Truesdells, Klein, Straub, Moyers, Ricketts and Harrington as representative of the American literature.

Several chapters of *ORAL MYOFUNCTIONAL DISORDERS* will help to bridge the gap between the orientations of speech and dental practitioners. For the speech clinician, Barrett and Hanson have provided an excellent overview of dental anatomy, physiology, development, malocclusion, corrective principles and clinical specialties. For the dentist, the discussion of speech development, disorders and the relationship between speech and dentistry is informative. Of theoretical and clinical interest to members of all disciplines involved in tongue thrust, are the chapters entitled: Etiologies (15 theories are discussed), Developmental physiology (of swallowing) and Controversies. The second part of the book, devoted to the Fundamentals and Procedures of treatment for oral myofunctional disorders, is of obvious clinical significance. This section (essentially a treatment manual) is highlighted by discussions of a classification system for tongue thrust types, diverse treatment approaches including appliance therapy, surgery, hypnosis and various oral myo(functional) therapy programs—from Straub to behavior modification, and finally, a detailed presentation of the authors' comprehensive approach to the diagnosis and treatment of oral myofunctional disorders.

ORAL MYOFUNCTIONAL DISORDERS is an excellent text for use in courses offered to dental, speech pathology and oral myology students. Practitioners of oral myology will be inspired by answers to bothersome questions and new insights into clinical methodologies, and although the book is primarily clinical, researchers will find it stimulates new levels of inquiry into old challenges.

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