

ENDODONTIC PRACTICE

BY

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*Fifth Edition, Thoroughly Revised,
With 327 Illustrations on 143 Figures, 1 in Colour*

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HENRY KIMPTON

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from the Third edition, 1954
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AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED

TO MY WIFE:

EMMA MAY,

AND CHILDREN:

CLARA RUTH

RICHARD ALAN

“Never must the physician say, the disease is incurable. By that admission he denies God, our Creator; he doubts Nature with her profuseness of hidden powers and mysteries.”

PARACELSUS

Preface

THE first edition of this book entitled "Root Canal Therapy" appeared twenty years ago. At that time there were still many who were opposed to the retention of pulpless teeth; endodontic practice was carried out empirically, for the most part; and very little endodontic research was being conducted. The term "endodontic" had not yet been coined. Since then considerable progress has been made in rational endodontic procedures. Not only is endodontic practice now accepted by the rank and file of the profession (and the public), but also a considerable number of practitioners are now engaged exclusively in this branch of dentistry. In addition, one or two year graduate courses are being offered by dental schools to broaden one's knowledge in this field and to equip one to practice endodontics in a sound, scientific manner. It would appear that endodontics has come of age. In keeping with the newer terminology, the title of this book has been changed to "Endodontic Practice."

The practice of endodontics gives one a deep inner satisfaction that comes of saving a tooth for a youngster, or of being able to salvage a tooth for an older person which may mean the difference to him between a fixed bridge and a partial denture (or a partial denture and a full denture), or of restoring an unsightly tooth to its natural color, or of replanting an avulsed tooth, or even of conserving the vitality of a pulp—of being able to help others functionally, esthetically, and psychologically.

In a previous edition of this book the author stated that the revival of interest in endodontic practice was due to failure of patients to benefit from the removal of teeth in most cases where the existence of focal infection was suspected; to the acknowledgment that pulpless teeth can be treated by therapeutic or surgical means without later becoming foci of infection; to the need, at times, to retain pulpless teeth as abutments for fixed prosthesis or in cases of oral reconstruction; and to the simplicity and certainty of treating pulpless teeth when accepted principles are followed. The author believes that the interest in endodontics is here to stay, but desires to reiterate that: "Sustained interest will prevail, however, only as long as a high standard of endodontic practice is adhered to by the average dental practitioner."

The function of a book is to impart knowledge. The knowledge intended to be conveyed by this book is tempered by experience. The author has divided his time almost equally for many years between practicing and teaching. He is grateful to the many teachers, students, and private practitioners who have received so appreciatively the previous editions of this book, and trusts that this edition will be received equally well.

In general, the book has been revised to bring it up to date; some material has been rearranged; the chapter on focal infection has been omitted; the section on antibiotics has been enlarged; and some new illustrations have been added.

The author again desires to thank all those whose help contributed toward general acceptance of previous editions of this book. He desires to thank Dr. George Krikos for reviewing the chapters on diseases of the pulp and periapical tissues, and for making helpful suggestions which have been incorporated. He also desires to thank Dr. Seymour Olet for his kindness in reading proof. Finally, he wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness "to that large number of dentists who, by their laboratory research or clinical studies, have enriched our knowledge of the science and practice of the art of root canal therapy," which is now referred to as endodontic practice.

LOUIS I. GROSSMAN

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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