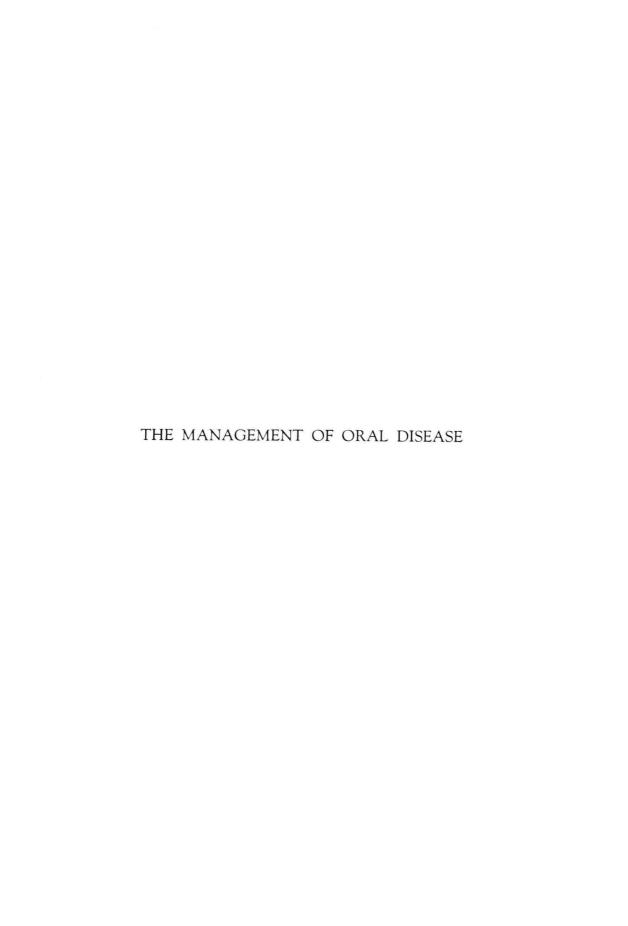
THE MANAGEMENT OF ORAL DISEASE

JOSEPH L. BERNIER





THE MANAGEMENT OF ORAL DISEASE

A Treatise on the Recognition, Identification, and Treatment of Diseases of the Oral Regions

By

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To

Bernice, Beverlee, and Joey
For whom any undertaking is possible

PREFACE

The stimulation for the preparation of this text to a very great extent came from the realization of the need for a guide in the teaching of oral pathology which would be in keeping with the newer definition of that specialty. It looks, therefore, beyond disturbances of the tooth and its supporting apparatus to the diseases of the soft and hard structures of the oral regions, which have now been generally accepted as a responsibility of the dental profession. At the same time, realism demanded a text which would be reasonably complete in subject matter and not overburdened with supportive detail. Such a work, it seemed, would lack cumbersome dimensions and yet provide a ready reference for student, practitioner, and pathologist. Toward this combination of completeness and readability, certain subjects no longer treated in detail as part of oral pathology have been purposefully de-emphasized. These include dental caries, which has now become a special segment of dental research and teaching, and periodontal pathology, which is discussed exhaustively in many excellent special texts.

Oral pathology cannot properly be considered as a segment of general pathology because of the applicability of the latter to diseases of both the living and the dead. Oral pathology, on the other hand, deals almost exclusively with the diseases of the living which occur in a special area and is therefore related to general surgical pathology. A work such as this, then, could properly be titled "Surgical Oral Pathology," but because of the strangeness of this phrase in dentistry, it was considered more appropriate to adopt the term "management" in this title, to indicate the emphasis which is placed on patient care.

Although defined in many ways, diagnosis may be considered to imply the reaching of a decision after careful study of signs and symptoms and other pertinent facts relating to disease. Unfortunately this decision often reaches fruition when an acceptable identification of the disease has been made. With this limited connotation, the word "diagnosis" no longer seems adequate, since to merely identify a disease process is not always sufficient.

The term "management," although also variously defined, generally has a broader application, such as that implied here, where recognition, identification, and treatment are embodied in the word. With such a definition, it may be seen that all who practice dentistry have some responsibility in the management of oral disease. Recognition of an abnormality is the problem of all who have patient contact. From this point onward management is completed or the patient is referred to another for identification and treatment. In any event, responsibility of all concerned is not discharged until therapy has been instituted. Specialization being what it is today, the cooperative effort of general practitioner and expert is becom-

ing more and more the rule. This is as it should be, since this increases the effectiveness of patient care. With such a division of responsibility, however, there is danger in thinking more of the local problem than of the patient himself. This is a serious mistake which can lead to disastrous results.

This is constantly demonstrated in the pathologist's world where it is evident that all disease processes are part of a larger panorama, the complete understanding of which is essential to proper management of the patient. Identification of a disease in a word or phrase does not necessarily indicate understanding of the reaction. This broader knowledge comes only after extensive clinical and laboratory experience involving attention to minutiae as they relate to the total organism. Without this latter appreciation, volumes of detailed data are useless.

It must also be borne in mind that, as in other texts, the data herein are generally presented in a simplified form and must, therefore, be augmented through literature review and open discussion if they are to have their fullest meaning. One should not quote, as undisputed and authoritative, statements from a book designed for student teaching, because the simplification necessary for such an objective often requires the elimination of much collaborative data.

A number of the concepts presented, such as those relating to leukoplakia and the cementifying fibroma, are somewhat original. It is hoped that this will not be looked upon as heretical, since time alone will determine how near they approach acceptability. Certainly it is not intended that these newer explanations should imply errors in past thinking. Acceptance of a new thought must be slow and deliberate and predicated upon open-minded analysis of all sides of the question.

Those who would ensure progress in biologic thinking are aware that mere weight of opinion, if unsubstantiated by factual support, need not be accepted, even when the opinion has, for example, reached such proportions as to make a clinical procedure illegal. This is so, since right or wrong in patient therapy must always be justifiable by sound biologic reasoning, and not by the popularity of a given technic. It is admittedly a formidable task to question concepts so entrenched, but timidity is no virtue under such circumstances.

Most of the illustrations are from the files of the Medical Illustration Service of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and the Registry of Oral Pathology of the American Registry of Pathology. Special acknowledgement is made to both, as well as to the individual contributors of cases.

A number of the illustrations are from a previous work of the author entitled "A Manual for the Differential Diagnosis of Oral Lesions." The C. V. Mosby Company has authorized their use. Others appeared in the "Atlas of Dental and Oral Pathology," and have been made available through courtesy of the American Registry of Pathology.

Special reference must be made to data prepared by residents and graduate students in this department, much of which has been incorporated in the text. Included are the studies on "Odontogenic Tumors" by Lt. Col. John P. Kane, USAF (DC); the work of Lt. Col. R. W. Tiecke, DC, USA, on "Intra-Oral Carcinoma"; "An Analysis of the Incidence of Leukoplakia" by Major Norbert C. Kephart, USAF (DC); studies on "Naso-pharyngeal Carcinoma" by Lt. H. H. Scofield (DC), USN; the assessment of "Spontaneous Resorption of Teeth" by Lt. Jack W.

Robinson (DC), USN; "The Analysis of Radicular Cysts" by Col. Winlaw W. Priebe, DC, USA, and Dr. Herman Turner; "The Reaction of Pulpal Tissue to Filling Materials" by Dr. Nelson Large; and the work of Major Leo Korchin, DC, USA, on "Healing After Extraction of Teeth."

Dr. George W. Greene, Jr., and Lt. Col. Richard W. Tiecke, DC, USA, prepared the first draft of the chapter, "Anomalies of the Teeth," and Dr. Harold Stanley, the first draft of Chapter 8, "The Pathology of Periodontal Disease." To these loyal members of my department, I am especially grateful.

The staff of the Medical Illustration Service of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology diligently and competently prepared the illustrations and are deserving of special thanks.

Mrs. Jean Richardson had responsibility for the typing of the manuscript, a tedious and time-consuming procedure, without which this work could not have been accomplished. Her diligence, attention to detail, and loyalty to the undertaking stood out as special virtues. To her I extend my very special thanks.

Miss Helen McLain contributed to this task in ways too numerous to mention. As always, I am in her debt.

Jerseph. L. Bernier

Washington, D. C.

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