Literary Review

A review of: Myofunctional Therapy in Dental Practice: Abnormal Swallowing Habits, Diagnosis--Treatment, 2nd ed. (1974) and A Handbook for the Practicing Myofunctional Therapist (1975), by Daniel Garliner

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MYOFUNCTIONAL THERAPY IN DENTAL PRACTICE: Abnormal Swallowing Habits, Diagnosis—Treatment (A Course of Study for the Dental Practitioner and Speech Pathologist) second edition. Daniel Garliner, Bartel Dental Book Co., Inc., 112 Crown Street, Brooklyn, New York 11225, 1974, 281 pages, with 1 Appendix, 528 figures, 2 charts, 1 table, and a supplemental cassette tape, price \$30.00.

A HANDBOOK FOR THE PRACTICING MYOFUNCTIONAL THERAPIST, Daniel Garliner, The Institute for Myofunctional Therapy, 1450 Madruga Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida 33146, 1975, 153 pages, price \$19.50 (paper).

Two books by Daniel Garliner (president of the Institute for Myofunctional Therapy, Coral Gables, Florida) have been published recently. One is the second edition of his text **MYOFUNCTIONAL THERAPY IN DENTAL PRACTICE**. The basic text, including discussion of abnormal swallowing—the problem, cause, diagnosis, result, therapist and method of treatment, is essentially unchanged. However, five new chapters have been added, and Chapters II- The Problem and IV- The Diagnosis have been expanded to include discussions of the “triangular muscular force field” concept, and the use of the Payne diagnostic technique.

The triangular muscular force field is described as “encompassing the lower part of the orofacial complex”. Points A of the triangle are representative of the bilateral masseter and buccinator muscles. Point B represents the tongue and orbicularis oris, and point C represents the mentalis. Garliner states that the imbalance of muscle vector forces within this triangle contributes to the development and/or maintenance of various types of occlusal problems, as well as speech problems. He further states that such an imbalance of vector forces has its origin in improper feeding during infancy.

The Payne Technique utilizes a fluorescent substance and black light to reveal lingual pressure points during deglutition.

The chapters which have been added to the text are entitled Myofunctional Therapy and Preventive Dentistry, Speech Implications in Myofunctional therapy, Stress and the Dentition, You Asked For It, and The Significance of Breast Feeding. The first three of these chapters are detailed restatements of concepts, theories and hypotheses found elsewhere in this volume and in the first edition. The chapter—You Asked For It, is composed of questions and answers concerning myofunctional therapy. The most interesting addition to the text is the chapter written by Richard M. Applebaum, M.D., entitled The Significance of Breast Feeding. It also restates several of the concepts discussed elsewhere in the text but provides additional information of anatomy, physiology and procedures for breast feeding.

The second recent publication by Garliner is **A HANDBOOK FOR THE PRACTICING MYOFUNCTIONAL THERAPIST**. Its purpose is to help clinicians keep abreast of current diagnostic and treatment procedures being developed at the Institute for Myofunctional Therapy in Florida.

The Handbook reviews the anatomy and physiology of the orofacial complex, outlines developmental guidelines for speech and dental growth, and contains a glossary of speech and dental terms. Other chapters discuss the response of muscles to exercise, correlates of myofunctional therapy, dentistry and speech pathology, and present tips on the motivation of young and adult patients and on office management. In addition, an articulation screening test is presented for use in the myofunctional therapy office, and instruments

and equipment for use in therapy are described. The most interesting concept in instrumentation is that of using biofeedback equipment in the diagnosis and treatment of oral myofunctional disorders.

Several questions arise due to the oversimplified presentation of the material. First, the information on the anatomy and physiology of the orofacial complex is so fundamental that it should perhaps have been included in the author's major text MYOFUNCTIONAL THERAPY IN DENTAL PRACTICE. Second, those who could perhaps best utilize the information gained from an articulation screening test probably have access to, or have developed their own instruments. Without the necessary background on the various etiologies and types of articulation disorders, and without the expertise to treat those disorders competently, a screening instrument may be of little positive value. Third, although the Payne and biofeedback techniques have obvious value in diagnostics and treatment, the author's statement that such measures will enable the therapist to judge the emotional and psychological condition of the patient is to this date not documented in the literature.

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