

Color Atlas of Oral Diseases in Children and Adolescents. By George Laskaris. 352 pp., illustrated. New York, Thieme, 1999. \$129. ISBN 0-86577-789-6.

This color atlas of oral pathology is a publication of the author's 30-year experience in diagnosing, treating, and photographing what would appear to be nearly the entire gamut of oral diseases. It is a remarkable book in many respects, not the least of which is that it reflects the documentation of a lifetime of work by a single practitioner. It is an encyclopedia of conditions that affect the teeth, gums, tongue, and other oral tissues that is effectively categorized by tissue and etiology. Major sections further divide the entities into local diseases, systemic diseases, and tumors.

Each entry is illustrated by one or more 3 x 5-inch color photographs of excellent quality and clarity. In addition, some illustrations show related features, such as radiographs, skin rashes, or microscopic lesions indica-

tive of the named condition. The accompanying text is concise and in outline form. It includes a brief statement regarding definition, cause, descriptive features, differential diagnosis, and treatment. The content is scholarly and thorough despite its brevity; however, the sections on treatment are by no means definitive. No references are cited.

This text is very specialized. Its usefulness lies in the reader's ability to confirm or diagnose oral diseases by comparison with a photograph of that condition. For the physician who encounters these conditions on a regular basis, the reference would be most valuable. Considering the great number of color plates, the price is quite reasonable, so even the average pediatrician or family physician might consider adding this book to the library as an aid in making that more occasional difficult diagnosis.

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