I must commend the editors and publishers for assembling this new textbook devoted exclusively to infections of the ears, nose, throat, neck, and sinuses. Otolaryngology–head and neck surgery in the first half of the 20th century was predominantly devoted to this subject both clinically and surgically, and there exist multiple classic textbooks on the subject. These textbooks were very precise regarding anatomy and open, classical surgical procedures but were weak if viewed through today’s more modern lens regarding evaluation and treatment. Clearly, the two major advances influencing otolaryngology–head and neck surgery during the 20th century were the development of antimicrobial strategies, including vaccines and antibiotics, and the development of sophisticated, computerized imaging technology. These advances ushered us into the current era of clinical strategy. With this current strategy, workups for patients afflicted with infection center around imaging, sophisticated testing including genetic testing, a variety of antibiotic delivery strategies that may have societal consequences regarding resistance or complications, and a more sophisticated taxonomy with regard to identifying specific pathology and their subsequent treatment. Current practice also involves teams of care, incorporating hospitalists, infectious-disease experts, rheumatologists, ophthalmologists, anesthesiologists, pediatricians, intensivists, radiologists, and many other experts. Despite the explosion of information and expertise, information regarding infections of the head and neck is often buried in a general textbook or elucidated by painstaking perusal of medical literature databases that reveal a sometimes overwhelming trove of clinical reports. Cochrane database information or clinical guidelines are often understandably lacking regarding the management of rare problems, although they are helpful in tackling commonly encountered clinical issues such as sinusitis or otitis media.

The value of this new book is that it amalgamates extremely useful and immediately applicable clinical information regarding infections into compact presentations that incorporate succinct, but detailed, clinical descriptions along with treatment recommendations by experienced authors into one source. Especially for those who are managing secondary and tertiary care as consultants, this book will prove to be extremely efficient and valuable. As a tertiary hospital consultant, this book will be an extraordinary resource.

The chapters are generally arranged by site, although there are excellent chapters reviewing antibiotics in general, antibiotic resistance, and biofilms. I was appreciative that the chapter on orbital complications of sinusitis referenced modern trends incorporating monitored trials of antibiotic treatment in cases where ophthalmoplegia and proptosis were not forcing an immediate trip to the operating room for drainage of orbital abscesses. Although contrary to the classic Chandler recommendations, the well-referenced treatment advice contained in the book appropriately modernizes the management strategy for this problem. The chapter titled “Invasive Fungal Sinusitis in Immunocompromised Hosts” elucidated a detailed approach to this rare but serious problem that often results in emergent consultation, especially at tertiary-care centers. It was gratifying to see a frank discussion of the role of surgical debridement highlighting the variability of evidence to support heroic debridement. The chapter titled “Acute Pharyngitis, Tonsillitis, and Peritonsillar Abscess” included an excellent review of infectious mononucleosis, outstanding clinical photographs to illustrate points highlighted in the text, and a useful and succinct chart outlining preferred antibiotic regimens by pathogen. There is a separate chapter on Lemierre’s syndrome that expertly reviews the classic questions of extent of surgical resection of the thrombus and the advisability of anticoagulation therapy, including references. This is an extremely useful and succinct presentation. Diseases that are now rare, such as diphtheria and epiglottitis, were given separate chapters. Although a mainstay of otolaryngology–head and neck surgery in the past, it is likely possible to complete an entire residency and never see these two diseases, at least in children.
These chapters are extremely useful for the current generation of residents and medical students.

I have several minor criticisms of the content of the book. In the chapter titled “Chronic Sore Throat,” a paragraph on syphilis-related oral gumma with a clinical photograph would have been useful. However, there was content related to syphilis in the chapter titled “Nasal Infections.” Although there is a chapter titled “Osteomyelitis of the Mandible,” there was a missed opportunity to thoroughly discuss infections related to trauma plating surgery as it pertains to bone infection. Also, the chapter titled “Bacterial Sialadenitis” did not thoroughly mention salivary duct stones and the relatively recent technology of sialendoscopy as it relates to the therapeutic armamentarium. Lastly, I did not see a detailed description of necrotizing fasciitis which, although rare, triggers multiple dilemmas in treatment decision making. This topic would be a welcome addition if a second edition of the text becomes necessary. Nevertheless, it was a good decision to separate the chapters on human papillomavirus (HPV) into one discussing the HPV issues pertaining to the epidemic of oropharyngeal carcinoma, and a separate chapter concentrating on recurrent respiratory papilloma as it relates to airway management.

In summary, this new book is highly useful, well done, thorough, and worth adding to your library.