This book presents an excellent summary on the importance of the immune system in infectious diseases of the head and neck. The book is separated into five sections. The first section gives a short and concise description of the basic essentials of the human immune system, information that is indispensable for the rational diagnosis and therapy of infectious disease. The function and build-up of the cellular and humoral immune systems as well as the immunological defect syndrome are described in separate chapters. The second section presents the specific host-parasite relationships in infections of the head and neck regions. Special problems such as infectious endocarditis, osteomyelitis or HIV infection are also assigned a chapter of their own. In addition to the understanding of important general principles of infection, a very detailed treatment guide for clinicians is given, e.g. for the prophylactic treatment of endocarditis in oral surgery. The third section summarizes the mechanisms of action and spectrum of activity, side effects, and pharmacokinetics of all the clinically important antimicrobial substances, thus enabling this chapter to be used as a reference at any time to solve special problems concerning antibiotic treatment. Specific clinical problems such as bacterial resistance or specimen taking and sensitivity testing of bacteria in the head and neck region are also dealt with here in a chapter of their own. The fourth section gives a short and concise overview of oral and orofacial infections. In the fifth section the essential epidemiological principles are presented in a short but sufficient manner. The aim of this book is to help the clinician treating diseases of the head and neck, and manages to do so very successfully. On the one hand, the book conveys the necessary understanding for basics in immunology, pharmacology and microbiology, and on the other hand also provides the clinician with, when necessary, detailed recommendations for therapy. The only drawback of the book is that frequent and typical ENT diseases such as sinusitis and tonsillitis are not depicted or discussed in enough detail. On looking at the constellation of authors, one can see that the main audience of this book will be dental surgeons and orthodontists. In summary, this book provides the reader with an overall picture of the current state of the art in immunology and infectious diseases of the head and neck region in a very clear and, until now, unavailable manner, and can be highly recommended. 

V. Bonkowsky, München