The Orthodontic Problem

This section of the book addresses important questions that are the intellectual and scientific background for the practice of orthodontics:

Why do we provide orthodontic treatment?
Who needs treatment?
How do people benefit from it?
How prevalent are orthodontic problems?
How are these problems related to growth of the head and face?
How are these problems related to eruption of the teeth?
Can we identify the etiology of these orthodontic problems?

You need to consider the answers to these questions before you can appropriately diagnose orthodontic problems, plan the treatment that will provide maximum benefit to the patient, and carry out that treatment. The answers, to the best of our ability to provide them now, are in the following chapters.