

APPENDIX A.—GLOSSARY OF DENTAL TERMS

Calculus.—Calcium phosphate and carbonate with organic matter deposited upon the surfaces of the teeth.

Cementum.—The bonelike connective tissue covering the root of a tooth and assisting in tooth support.

Gingiva.—Gum of the mouth.

Gingivitis.—Inflammation of the gingiva (gum) only.

Keyes technique.—A nonsurgical method of treating periodontal disease which involves microscopic determination of the microbial status, the application of certain salt solutions in all instances, periodic courses of systemic antibiotics when indicated, and an extensive regimen of oral hygiene instruction.

Maintenance.—Patient seen periodically for assessment of periodontal health status, cleaning (prophylaxis), microscopic assessment of bacterial activity, and oral hygiene instruction if needed.

Mobile teeth.—Loose teeth.

Mucogingival surgery.—Surgical removal of pockets involving soft tissue only as part of the surgical approach to treating periodontal disease.

Osseous surgery.—Surgical removal of bone as part of the surgical approach to treating periodontal disease.

Quadrant.—A term used for descriptive purposes to designate any one of four areas of the teeth and gums (e.g., the upper right quadrant or the lower left quadrant).

Periodontal disease.—Diseases of the supporting structures of the teeth (e. g., gingivitis, periodontitis),

Periodontist.—A dental specialist who concentrates on periodontal disease.

Periodontitis.—Inflammation of the supporting structures of the teeth including bone. The use of this term connotes destruction of the periodontal tissues.

Periodontium.—The tissues investing and supporting the teeth, including the cementum, periodontal ligament, alveolar bone, and gingiva.

Plaque.—A gummy, almost exclusively bacterial substance which adheres to the teeth and is discernible only by applying stains. Plaque is the primary causative agent in periodontal disease.

Pocket.—The deepening of the normal space between the gum and the tooth due to inflammation.

Probing.—Placing a dental instrument under the gingiva or gum to determine whether or not bleeding will occur and to measure periodontal pockets, if present.

Prophylaxis.—The use by professionals of appropriate procedures and/or techniques to clean the teeth.

Radiograph.—A film of internal structures of the mouth produced by X-ray.

Root planing.—Smoothing of the root surfaces of the teeth using certain instruments.

Scaling.—Removal of calculus material from the tooth surfaces and that part of the teeth covered by the marginal gingiva.

Sulcus.—The normal space between the gum and the tooth,