Ballenger was first published in 1908. It has appeared in 10 languages and sold 150,000 copies worldwide.

The 17th edition includes 100 chapters with sections on otology/neurotology, rhinology, facial plastic and reconstructive surgery, pediatric otorhinolaryngology, laryngology and bronchoesophagology and head and neck surgery. Color illustrations appear throughout this edition.

The presentation of basic science underlying clinical otorhinolaryngology has been expanded, and chapters on clinical topics are structured to provide comprehensive coverage for the clinicians. Disorders of smell, taste, balance and hearing, voice, speech and language is also emphasized provide comprehensive coverage of the discipline. New chapters include stereotactic radiosurgery, biofilms, outcomes and clinical research, robotic surgery and chemoradiation.

Senior authors were chosen not only for original contributions but also for their intellectual leadership of the specialty. The book is designed to satisfy the informational needs of trainees and practitioners alike. Basic science and clinical chapters stress the role of molecular biology in the pathogenesis of disease. Throughout, the genetic basis of disease has been emphasized.