

Book Reviews

Orthodontics and Paediatric Dentistry (2000)

Authors: Declan Millett and Richard Welbury

Publisher: Churchill Livingstone, London

Price: £12.95

ISBN: 0-443-06287-0

Colour guides have always been invaluable tools of swift revision for students preparing for written or oral examinations. Their emphasis on illustration of the text makes learning more enjoyable and the material covered more memorable. As such, they also act as good sources of reference when refreshing one's knowledge on a particular subject. This small book is no exception. The two disciplines of orthodontics and paediatric dentistry are represented in two equal parts, each consisting of approximately 20 sections, with each covering one major clinical subject. Each section is illustrated with good quality and highly representative photographs or radiographs in a user-friendly style.

The format of such books inevitably has drawbacks, the main one being that the extent of the text on any given subject is dictated by the availability of space on a particular page. On the whole, the authors of this book have not fallen into this trap. In fact, running over onto the following page has been used as an opportunity to print more illustrations. For example, the sections on tooth trauma, an area of great confusion for many dental students, are indeed very comprehensive for a small book such as this.

There are other areas, however, that deserve more attention. The section on medical conditions is surprisingly incomplete and does not sufficiently elaborate on dental or general anaesthetic considerations. Conditions that require antibiotic cover prior to dental treatment and the current recommended regimens seem to be virtually absent from the text. The sections dealing with soft tissue conditions could have mentioned more detailed or specific treatments, e.g. the medication used in oral ulceration. Eruption times are not presented in a table and there is no mention of calcification dates.

Another possible criticism of the text is that primary tooth notations are represented in lower case, rather than in capital letters. Moreover, the introduction should perhaps state the system of tooth notation used in this book for those who are used to other systems.

Despite these shortcomings, this colour guide provides a concise and yet quite comprehensive resource mainly for undergraduate dental students and general practitioners. Postgraduate orthodontic students may also find this book a useful refresher during the early stages of their training programmes.

Mahmoud Pourghadiri

The Anatomical Basis of Dentistry, 2nd edn (2001)

Author: Bernard Leibgott

Publisher: Mosby, Inc., St Louis

Price: £49.95

ISBN: 0-323-01013-X

This is a standard text often used in the past by many dental students. The sections on the general aspects of anatomy are very good. It is

pleasing to see outlines of the different systems and definitions of ganglion, nucleus and cranial nerve given. The diagrams are good and clear.

Clinical examples related to the text are enclosed in filled boxes, and are relevant and useful. It would have been nice to see more of these in the head and neck sections. There is a good chapter on applied anatomy with a section on local anaesthesia.

Times have changed, however. The dental student is paying £50.00 for this text on anatomy yet 25 per cent of it is devoted to the back, abdomen and both limbs. Current dental and medical students are hard pressed to find the time to read even the core anatomy relevant to their studies. This discrepancy is clearly highlighted in the clinical examples. Does a dental student want or even need to read about episiotomy? If the non-relevant parts of anatomy and their clinical examples were dropped then there would have been more space for other more relevant clinical examples.

Two hundred and fifty pages on the head and neck is a lot for today's student, and is significantly longer than the length of text I would expect them to study. Although the diagrams are good, most of my students tend to read shorter texts and use a colour atlas to complement their reading, lectures and dissecting room studies. This book attempts to combine both. It is very difficult if not impossible to design 'the only textbook of gross anatomy you will ever need'.

Although I will not recommend this a book as a first choice for my students to purchase, there are, as I have indicated, many good aspects that no doubt are worthy of a student's consideration. It should certainly be made available for medical and dental students in their school libraries.

Colin Stolkin

Craniofacial Dysfunction & Pain: manual therapy, assessment and management (2001)

Editors: Harry von Piekartz and Lynn Bryden

Publisher: Butterworth Heinemann, Oxford

Price: £32.50

ISBN: 0-7506-2963-0

Modern medicine is characterized by specialization, while clinical management of craniomandibular dysfunction requires interdisciplinary approaches. Normally, in orthopaedics the body is studied 'without the head'. While biomechanics of the spine and the extremities are well understood, the craniomandibular and cranio-cervical region is usually neglected. This book is an ambitious work that attempts to gather together a broad arsenal of philosophies, clinical techniques, and principles in the field of interdisciplinary diagnostics and treatment of pain and dysfunction and the craniomandibular and craniocervical field. This book provides a report on current knowledge and recent developments in neuro-orthopaedics. Some of the latest aspects in growth, functional anatomy, and pain mechanisms related to structures in the cranial region are explained along with

assessment and management strategies for use in daily practice.

From the point of view of manual medicine, a number of techniques to manipulate cranial bones and nervous tissues are thoroughly explored using photographs and almost perfect schemes. Management strategies including clinimetry, cranio-cervical posture and psychosomatic management of chronic facial pain patients are described and, most importantly, set in relation to their integration in daily clinical practice. Important functional related problems such as chronic headache, chronic ear pain in children, KISS syndrome, facial paralysis, and tinnitus are also mentioned. The review of current literature will be helpful for all those who are interested in the topic.

S. Kopp