

Book Reviews

A Handbook for Dental Hygienists

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284 pp

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The fourth edition of this well-established and popular book (first published in 1978) has undergone a number of changes since the third edition of 1992 but still retains its original character and purpose as a basic comprehensive text for Dental Hygienists.

The format and layout is greatly improved. Increased page size; double column text and shaded summary tables make it an altogether more attractive, inviting and reader-friendly edition than the previous ones. The suggestions for further reading at the end of each chapter should encourage the reader to explore further and to read more widely. The quality of illustrations throughout is good apart from an indistinct radiograph of Juvenile Periodontitis in Figure 11.15.

Since the publication of the third edition in 1992, Dental Hygiene courses have been lengthened from one to two years and the Hygienist remit has been extended to include additional items e.g. practical radiography; rubber dam application and the emergency placement of temporary dressings.

The fourth edition contains new sections relating to each of these procedures and adequately addresses the addi-

tional theoretical curriculum content which is required. The chapter on Rubber Dam Placement, in particular, is clear, succinct and contains useful photographic illustrations.

The existing content has also been revised and updated to reflect changes in terminology and in the practice of dentistry.

The chapter on 'Inflammatory Periodontal Diseases' (previously 'Chronic Periodontal Diseases') is much improved and now contains a useful section on the use of anti-microbials. A comprehensive new Chapter on 'Epidemiology of Dental Diseases' is most welcome and appropriate to the present day Hygienist.

In response to request the authors have also added a new section relating to dentine sensitivity, its aetiology and management.

In order to accommodate additional information some peripheral material (e.g. the six pages of 'examples of dental terminology' in previous editions) has been omitted—allowing the book to remain at a handy 284 pages.

In the Preface to this edition the authors state that their aim 'is to provide the student dental hygienist with a general text covering all aspects of the theoretical content of the training course'. They have achieved this by producing a sound, easy to read, basic textbook which should promote reflective learning and stimulate the student to further reading and research. It should also serve as a useful reference book for qualified hygienists and those returning to work.

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