

## FEATURES SECTION

# Book Reviews

### **A Handbook for Medical Teachers, 4th edn**

David Newble, Robert Cannon  
Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht 2001  
222 pages, hardback, £27  
ISBN 0792370929

This is now the fourth edition of a classic text that first appeared about 20 years ago. Then it was a leader in the field, easily achieved by being the only one in the field. It has taken a remarkably long time for other books aimed at helping medical teachers improve their techniques and understand educational methods to appear, but it now has rivals. How does it compare to the competition?

It has retained the open style on the page, with a large font. The summary and hints and tips boxes, bulleted lists and margin illustrations by Zig Kapleis make this an easy and entertaining book to read. It is full of information that the newly appointed lecturer will find invaluable. The text is fairly didactic, but does not have the breadth and depth of a couple of its newer rivals. However, at the end of each chapter there is a Guided Reading section that suggests sources of information that are both relevant and up-to-date. If the reader follows these references, she/he will become aware of the 'shades of grey' that accompany every academic endeavour, but perhaps only those with an interest in developing further their expertise in education will need to consult these other sources. For those who want a primer in educational techniques, this is a mid-range priced book that will satisfy that need.

R G Oliver

### **Tooth Coloured Restoratives. Principles and Techniques, 9th edn**

Harry F. Albers  
BC Decker Hamilton London 2002  
302 pages, hardback, \$129.00  
ISBN 1 55009 1557

This is the ninth edition of a title that was first published in 1980. The book (with accompanying CD-ROM) is approximately A4-sized. It is made up of 12 chapters

and nearly 300 pages, which cover subject matter such as material science, diagnosis, glass ionomers, resin ionomers, uses of ionomers, resin polymerization, resins, resin bonding, placement and finishing, anterior restorations, direct posterior composites, and aesthetics. The 25 pages of appendix deal with four specific areas: nomenclature for curing composite resins, a universal restorative tray, magnification, and air abrasion.

Dr Albers states in his preface that 'My goal is to help clinicians understand the basics of how composite materials work and show how to apply that knowledge in materials selection and use.' He should be applauded as his text achieves this goal.

To the unsuspecting reader, an initial glance at this book with its regular reference to materials science, including physical characteristics and chemical structure, may put them off, but a careful read will soon dispel such thoughts. Dr Albers manages to introduce and explain such subject material in an understanding and thought provoking way; everything is relevant to the clinical use and understanding of the material group being referred to at the specific time.

Every chapter in the book is well illustrated and appropriately referenced, with both historical and up-to-date references being given at the end of each chapter. The later chapters of the book are more directly concerned with the clinical application of tooth coloured restoratives. These chapters provide the step-by-step stages necessary to achieve good clinical results. In these chapters the author supports his material with good quality clinical and laboratory material; line diagrams are also used in a most appropriate way.

Dr Albers' book offers much more than its title would suggest. It is full of useful clinical tips, using the integral fibre optics of a dental hand piece in trans-illumination or a periodontal probe to measure cavity depth on a radiograph being just two.

The book makes an interesting read and will become a source of reference to the many that buy it. It may be to the orthodontist that such a book would seem superfluous to their needs, but an initial read of the chapters on diagnosis and resin bonding should help dispel such thoughts.

R McAndrew