

FEATURES SECTION

Book Reviews

Burket's Oral Medicine. Diagnosis and Treatment, 10th edn

Martin S Greenberg, Michael Glick (Eds)
BC Decker Inc., Hamilton, 2003
658 pp., hardback, \$99.95
ISBN 1-55009-186-7

This well known publication represents not only the 10th edition of one of the classic oral medicine textbooks, but also celebrates the 50th anniversary of the first edition of Lester Burket's *Oral Medicine: Diagnosis and Treatment*. In contrast to the original book, which was written by one author, the present production comprises the work of 30 internationally recognized experts in the field of either oral medicine or general medicine.

The material is divided into 24 chapters that are presented in four sections: Part I contains three chapters addressing the principles of patient evaluation, including a new section on maxillofacial imaging techniques; Part II describes the diagnosis and management of orofacial disease in a total of six chapters, with new chapters on white and red lesions and salivary gland disease; Part III comprises two new chapters on temporomandibular disorders and orofacial pain; and Part IV includes 13 chapters covering the principles of medicine, with special emphasis on the impact of disease on provision of dental care.

This book provides an authoritative and comprehensive coverage of the practice of oral medicine and the provision of dental care to patients with medical problems. Each chapter contains a number of tables and figures, together with an extensive list of contemporary references. The text is well written throughout and any member of the dental healthcare team will find this book a source of useful information. The depth of material and excellent cited literature provide both undergraduate and post-graduate students with a wealth of knowledge on not only diagnosis, but also on key aspects of clinical management (an aspect of oral medicine often not dealt with adequately in texts of this kind).

As one would expect of an established textbook in its 10th edition, it is extremely difficult to fault this book.

However, why have the publishers not made any use of colour illustration? Appreciation of colour is essential in the diagnosis of oral mucosal disease. Whilst, in the past, the cost of colour may have been prohibitive in medical texts, it would now be expected in an establish book such as this. The lack of colour is particularly relevant to the new chapter describing red and white lesions of the oral mucosa, where the majority of the illustrations are just 'shades of grey' and, as such, bear no relationship to what is encountered clinically.

The book is accompanied by a CD-ROM that contains a complete copy of the text and illustrations, in fully searchable PDF files. Whilst personally I still prefer the feel and look of a good book, the CD-ROM provides an extremely useful tool for searching for information on a particular subject. Once again, use of colour illustrations would have greatly enhanced the CD.

This book will undoubtedly do extremely well and it deserves to do so. For a specialist in Oral Medicine looking for an up-to-date reference or the non-specialist wishing occasional access to an authoritative view of an aspect of management in a patient with medical condition then there is probably not a better book on the market at the present time. With the addition of colour, which I would hope to see in the 11th edition, this will truly be a 'must have' book.

M A O Lewis

Personal Development Plans for Dentists, The New Approach to Continuing Professional Development

Amur Rughani, Chris Franklin, Stephen Dixon
Radcliffe Medical Press, Oxford, 2003
232 pp., paperback, £29.95
ISBN 1 85775 917

Having been recently involved in Consultant Appraisals within the NHS, it was with some degree of trepidation that I accepted an offer to review this book. It did not, however, take much time with this volume to appreciate how a new and relatively 'threatening' subject can be explained in such a constructive and helpful manner.

Many of the skills needed to implement the processes in the text are now routinely taught at undergraduate level, but for experienced practitioners, often some years from learning new non-clinical skills, this book is a gem.

The book has a well-laid out style, with helpful key point summaries at the beginning of a series of chapters that are presented in a thoughtful and logical sequence.

The book succeeds in demystifying the management speak that usually accompanies texts on this subject. After reading the book, you will be able to spot a PDP (Personal Development Plan), tackle a SEA (Significant Event Analysis), and commit to PUN's and DEN's (Patients' Unit Needs and Dentists' Educational Needs).

The book has very useful figures and tables aimed at explaining the processes in a helpful and logical way,

whilst linking it to everyday practice life and concepts such as revalidation. A very helpful aspect of the book is the frequent 'checkpoint' boxes sprinkled throughout the book helping you check and review your progress through the process. Each chapter also ends up with useful pointers for further information, and the Appendices provide a selection of useful questionnaires and forms to help the readers. There is the additional benefit that these are available on line. For those looking to use a PDP as a tool to achieve quality in a practice setting, I could commend no better textbook than this.

The authors deserve the highest praise for a clear, simple, and effective expanse of a topic often presented in a confusing and unhelpful way.

Peter Durning