as a textbook in university business and food science and technology departments.

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Medical Textiles
S. Anand (Ed.), Woodhead Publishing Ltd, Abington, 2001, 237 pp., £95.00, ISBN 1-85573-494-X

Medical textiles constitute a major growth area in technical textiles: it has been predicted that this will account for nearly 12% of the worldwide market in four years' time. The diversity of applications encountered in medical and healthcare products is quite remarkable: it currently ranges from simple gauzes or bandages through to scaffolds for tissue culturing and to prostheses for permanent body implants. Recent advances have included fibres for cell growth, bioresorbable supports for growing human organic tissue, and the development of smart fibres based on naturally occurring polymers for the treatment of wounds and ulcers.

Medical Textiles presents the Proceedings of the International Conference held at Bolton Institute in the UK on 24/25 August 1999. A total of 28 papers were presented under six different headings: modern materials and processes; compression and bandaging; healthcare and hygiene; wound care; implantable devices; and test methods. The edited papers give a fascinating insight into the current state and depth of research and development taking place worldwide in this growing and rapidly changing field.

This book of original edited papers is well-presented and thoughtfully structured, enabling the reader to appreciate and understand the future potential of medical textiles in the twenty-first century. It is recommended for both researchers and industry professionals involved in healthcare, medicine, textiles, materials and numerous other related disciplines.

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