

student, for the clinician with limited knowledge of radiology, and is of interest to those experienced in radiology. The chapter 'Radiographic Evaluation of the TMJ' is restricted to techniques other than MRI, which forms a separate chapter by a different author. The excellent imaging algorithm, showing choice of imaging based on presenting symptoms, is covered in the second of the two chapters on radiography, while it would have been logical as an introduction to the subject as such. The two chapters together fully cover the different imaging techniques applicable for the temporomandibular joint.

Management of temporomandibular disorders include six chapters covering occlusal appliance therapy, pharmacotherapy, an overview of physical modalities and procedures, behavioural and psychosocial management, surgery of the temporomandibular joint and

long-term management of the temporomandibular disorder patient.

Finally orofacial pain of non-masticatory origin and headache disorders are addressed. The chapter on differential diagnosis covers a number of different conditions and the reader is guided through the diagnostic process to the differential diagnosis of orofacial pain with the feeling that a labyrinth of obscurity has been straightened out.

In summary, this textbook has a logical outline and an attractive layout with excellent illustrations which makes it not only suitable for dental students but also serves as a guide for practitioners. Experienced clinicians will no doubt gain insight from the expertise of the various contributing authors and their ability to discuss complex subjects on a clinical level.

I can warmly recommend this textbook.

Annika Isberg

The Periodontal Ligament in Health and Disease, 2nd edition (1995)

Barry K. B. Berkowitz, Bernard J. Moxham and Hubert N. Newman

Times International Publishers Ltd, London

Price: £149.50

ISBN: 0-723-41931-0

Although a second edition of the original 1982 version, the addition of two new chapters and the considerable modifications made by the editors lead them to consider this as a new work.

The combination of a page size permitting 1000 words per page with 446 pages make this a large book. There are 21 chapters which deal comprehensively with the anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, cell biology and pathology of the periodontal ligament and associated tissues. Specifically excluded from the text, by the editors, is any mention of periodontal therapy.

The chapters have been written by 32 different authors. However, not all these authors are equally well known and it may have been an advantage to list the authors and their areas of expertise at the beginning of the book. This comment also has relevance to the interpretation that authors place on their delegated areas. For example, Embery and colleagues produce an excellent chapter on ground substance from the

basic science point of view which stops short of fully describing the clinical relevance of the topic.

There are some 380 illustrations and figures, of which 110 are tables and line drawings. The 172 colour illustrations allow a vivid appreciation of both the histological staining techniques used and the clinical presentation of the conditions described. This is particularly noticeable in the sections dealing with immunocytochemistry.

This book is to be highly commended to those readers wishing to acquire a detailed knowledge of the periodontal ligament particularly in relation to the structure and pathology of the tissue, since it is in those areas that the monograph is at its best.

Orthodontists will note the inclusion of a chapter on histology by Rygh and Brudvik which, although well presented and illustrated, largely reiterates previous work. Davidovitch discusses cell biology in relation to orthodontic

tooth movement and presents ideas on the interplay between force transduction, cytoskeleton and extracellular matrix. This important and advancing area, in spite of up to 170 references, does not include all relevant literature. For example, one surprising omission is the absence of any reference to the work of Yen.

There are large numbers of citations in most chapters. Some authors have an irritating capacity for excessive self-quotation. Some of the literature is dated and repetitive. The bibliography of the chapter on external forces on the periodontal ligament contains 22 citations to Picton, of which 12 are more than 20 years old.

Another endemic difficulty is with the term periodontal ligament as opposed to periodontium. The latter term, in addition to the ligament, includes gingival connective tissue and, as such, has a broader appeal to the orthodontist. The editors discuss this point in the preface and have allowed authors to choose their

own parameters. The chapter on connective tissue biochemistry by Kirkham and Robinson discusses the biochemistry of the fibres of the periodontium. This clearly written and well argued chapter addresses the functional significance of the biochemistry of both gingiva and ligament.

Although, for orthodontists wishing to further their understanding of the biological basis of clinical orthodontics, this book gives an incomplete picture, there are at least eight chapters worthy of study. The literature quoted provides an excellent starting point for further reading of more contemporary work. It is an unfortunate but inevitable consequence that the time taken to produce a book of this size has the effect of dating some of the material. However, the editors are to be congratulated on producing such a volume with so few typographical errors.

Neil Pender

Radiographic Cephalometry: From Basics to Videoimaging (1995)

Alexander Jacobson (Ed)

Publisher: Quintessence Publishing Co. Inc., London

Price: £68.00

ISBN: 0-86713-924-X

This seems to be the most comprehensive book on cephalometry at present on the market, and as the title suggests it covers more or less all aspects of the topic. The book contains 23 chapters, starting with the significance of radiographic cephalometry, the history of cephalometry and ending with videocephalometry and two- and three-dimensional analyses, and also how to document transfer cases. The editor has had the help of 18 contributors, including, among others, C. F. A. Moorrees, P. L. Sadowsky and L. E. Johnston.

Tracing technique and landmark definition are quite naturally given broad attention as an introduction to the presentation of five classical and widely used cephalometric analyses: these are Downs, Steiner, Ricketts and McNamara, as well as Wits appraisal, which are discussed in a chapter on the geometry of cephalometry. Growth analysis and superimposition are also

important chapters. As Moorrees is one of the contributors, the importance of natural head position is of course emphasized.

In a short review it is not possible to cover all aspects of this extensive text. However, in the preface the editor says that after reading this book, the reader should have acquired sufficient appreciation of cephalometry to be able to read and interpret any of the many available cephalometric analyses. This goal is surely reached concerning postgraduate students, but those also accustomed to cephalometric radiography will have a broader mind and better understanding of this important tool after studying the book, the strength of which lies primarily in gathering all this information under one cover.

After reading the book one must agree with T. M. Graber in the foreword when he states that this book will become the standard text for all