

Book Reviews

Calcium Waves, Gradients and Oscillations (1995)

Gregory R. Bock and Kate Ackerill

Ciba Foundation Symposium 188 Ciba Foundation, John Wiley and Sons, Chichester. Price: £49.95, ISBN: 0-471-95234-6

This book represents the report of a meeting held in April 1994 and consists of 291 pages divided into 18 sections which includes an excellent introduction and summation by Michael Berridge. There are some superb chapters on all facets of calcium signalling, and the information imparted is probably as up to date as feasible in a textbook. It is extremely refreshing

to see that the discussion of papers is included with both full questions and answers.

This book is, without a doubt, essential reading for any individual interested in intracellular calcium and can therefore be recommended in any science library.

Fraser McDonald

Fixed Orthodontic Appliances: Principles and Practice (1995)

J. K. Williams, P. A. Cook, K. G. Isaacson, A. R. Thom

Wright, Oxford. Price: £35.00, ISBN: 0-7236-1001-0

This book is the son of a popular soft-covered practitioner handbook delivered by Keith Isaacson and John Williams more than 20 years ago. He is a handsome, up-standing fellow with hard covers and is taller, broader and more muscular than his father. The team of obstetricians was augmented for this edition by the addition of Paul Cook and Allan Thom, and he has a famous transatlantic godfather in Lysle Johnston who has added a foreword.

The book is intended for general practitioners and postgraduate students of orthodontics in their formative years and there is an appropriate warning notice in the preface that the principles in the book should not be put into practice without further clinical instruction.

The authors have studiously avoided colourful illustrations of successful treatments which would increase the price and divert attention from the main thrust of the book, which is to explain the principles of treatment in a logical sequence. Colour plates are limited to four pages, the other illustrations are very clear line diagrams which the authors generated themselves using Harvard graphics. The colour plates are generally well-chosen except for the cleats,

buttons and eyelets which have a curiously blackened appearance as though they were jewellery dug up from an early Anglo-Saxon burial site. This, however, is in keeping with the early Anglo-Saxon training of the authors revealed by repeated references to soft tissue balance. Whether anchorage in Chapter 2 followed by a return to anchorage in Chapters 8 and 9 and chairside management with commencement of treatment in Chapter 16 represents a logical sequence is questionable. Remarkably, in a book for beginners, there is no chapter on the instruments and materials used in fixed appliance therapy. Some clinicians would see bonding of canines and premolars delayed until the seventh visit as being rather slow. I looked hard for a reference to a certain appliance which may be seen as a derivative of Begg by some and a development of straightwire by others. The authors skirt round the subject in Chapter 3 but do mention the name in two other places, one of them misspelt. I suppose they thought that the inclusion of this appliance would tip the book over the edge of the precipice.

These small criticisms apart, this book is quite outstanding in its adherence to basic

principles, notably the discussion of anchorage control in Begg therapy alongside edgewise systems, which is no easy task. The book shines like a beacon of commonsense based on the vast experience of the authors. It is a book for clinicians by clinicians which must be read by

postgraduate students and practitioners, should be read by orthodontists in practice, and will be read with enjoyment by consultants and teachers everywhere.

Andrew Richardson

Occlusion (1995)

Major M. Ash and Sigurd Ramfjord

W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia. Price: £50.00, ISBN: 0-7216-5591-2

This is the fourth edition of this classic text which is now almost 30 years old. Twelve years have elapsed since the last edition, and the authors have taken the opportunity to make substantial revisions to the text. The most immediate change is the billing of the authors. Ash and Ramfjord does not seem to roll so easily from the tongue as Ramfjord and Ash, but maybe that is just habit. So what else has changed? The whole format is different; gone are the four sections containing 17 chapters to be replaced by 12 chapters with no sections, and about 100 fewer pages. Gone also are the many pages devoted to bruxism and the neural and structural basis of motor function. Many of the illustrations are retained, and some updated to show, for instance, the clinician wearing gloves during the examination of the patient.

The authors state the text is for practitioners, students, teachers and investigators who are interested in the function and dysfunction of the masticatory system. Orthodontists could legitimately claim to be amongst these groups. It is disappointing therefore to find that the chapter on Occlusion and Orthodontics remains almost unaltered from the previous edition, and even 12 years ago the appliances illustrated would have been out of date. Furthermore, it is difficult to understand how the authors have

produced this chapter without a single reference to Ronald Roth.

Elsewhere the book offers much common sense on the concept, etiology (*sic*) epidemiology and pathology of the masticatory system. In Chapter 3, orthodontists will be pleased to hear that the authors do not believe that orthodontic treatment leads to temporomandibular joint dysfunction syndrome, whilst suggesting that it may help to relieve some of the symptoms. This reviewer was relieved to discover that the dental articulator is 'often a mystery to ... clinicians'. Sound advice follows on the choice and use of articulators. There are two chapters describing the treatment of occlusal problems which could have been combined into one. Orthodontic appliances such as the Hawley biteplane or the Sved appliance are but a small part of the initial approach to treatment, the preferred option being full acrylic coverage of the maxillary teeth allowing flat occlusal centric contacts of all mandibular teeth.

This is a textbook which ought to be read by anyone who provides orthodontic treatment for adults, should be required reading for all participants of combined Orthodontic/Restorative diagnostic and treatment planning clinics, and clinicians associated with patients who suffer from temporomandibular joint disorders.

Richard G. Oliver