Twin Block Functional Therapy. Applications in Dentofacial Orthopaedics (1995)

Author: William J. Clark
Publisher: Times International Publishers Limited, London
Price: £95.00, ISBN: 0-7234-21-20-X

The use of myofunctional appliances, when required as an initial phase of treatment, has become widespread within UK orthodontics over the last 20 years. Such systems are commonly employed in orthodontic practice and are taught in most of the Dental Schools.

Bill Clark's personal enthusiasm has been largely responsible for the introduction of the Twin Block. He has advocated and promoted its usage, as an 'orthopaedic' type of appliance, which, since it is in two parts, may be worn for longer than most other varieties.

The book is presented largely involving numbers of well-illustrated case reports. Though this visibly supports the validity of the therapy, the inclusion of repetitive detail and advice has been difficult to avoid.

The foreword, by Dr T. M. Graber, is more a descriptive overview of the contents, with the book aiming to cover all the usages for which Clark has employed this appliance. The most effective aspects of the text are those directed to the reasoning for the therapy, current designs, construction and practical tips on the appliance usage, and its involvement with particular Class II malocclusions. The changes that have occurred in how Clark now employs his appliances are an important reason for reading the book.

The wide page format of the volume (which is not too thick) makes it easy to absorb the detail and illustrations. It is a desirable purchase for those wishing to collate and update their information on the thinking of William J. Clark, and at £95.00 should still find a place in all postgraduate centres and Dental School Libraries.

Laurence A. Usiskin

Bioceramics. Volume 8 (1995)

Editors: June Wilson, Larry L. Hench and David Greenspan
Publisher: Elsevier Science Limited, Oxford
Price: £125.00, ISBN: 0-08-0426778

This 512 page volume is a comprehensive report of the eighth annual meeting on bioceramics, which in 1995 was held in the University of Florida. The meetings are still small enough for all the contributors to attend and take part in each session. In this way they are exposed to areas other than their own, something that has been lost at many dental meetings. Nevertheless, despite its small size, some 85 reports appear in this latest volume. Each is a concise (4–6 page) summary of the state of the art in a particular area, and session reports are grouped under the headings of bone biology, spinal reconstruction, orthopaedic applications, ear, nose and throat (ENT) and maxillofacial, calcium phosphate coatings, composites, bioglasses and dental applications. There are also two papers which look forward to new directions of measurement and the manufacture of bioceramics for all sorts of applications.

Amongst the reports appearing under the dental heading, are a general paper on bioactive glasses together with others looking at their specific uses. These include the restoration of periodontal bone defects, endodontic applications and as pulp capping agents. In this latter role they apparently produce less inflammation than calcium hydroxide. As dental restorative materials glass-ceramics were seen to crystallize in the form of needles of apatite when fluorine was added to the basic silica-alumina-potash opal glass.

Whilst many of the applications reported in this volume show great promise of things to come, one of the most fascinating reports comes from a team in Japan, who have found a way