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

to produce a bioactive surface on titanium alloys by chemical surface modification rather than applying a bioceramic layer to the surface by one of the more-established complex routes. Their process involves soaking the alloys in aqueous solutions of sodium or potassium hydroxide and then heat treating them at 600°C. When such a surface is exposed to simulated body fluids, not unlike plasma, it produces a thin, bone-like apatite layer.

This book reports the very latest results from laboratories around the world, and one contemplating getting involved in this field of endeavour should certainly familiarize themselves with its contents.

David Brown

Impacted Teeth (1993)

Editors: C. C. Alling, J. F. Helfrick, R. D. Alling
Publisher: W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia
Price: £71.00, ISBN: 0-7216-2968-7

Dentists daily face many decisions regarding impacted teeth and this book presents detailed information on the aetiology, diagnosis and management of impacted teeth. This textbook was written for patients' dental health advisors and provides a well-illustrated modern surgical text.

The 33 authors are mainly maxillofacial surgeons but four authors are active in the fields of oral pathology, orthodontics and periodontology. All authors but four are from the USA. The 23 chapters cover a broad range of subjects, including anaesthesia and sedation, diagnosis (including radiography) and surgical techniques. Each chapter covers a specific topic, such as impacted teeth, third molars, odontomas, transplantation of teeth, impacted teeth in fractures and clefts. Four chapters deal with surgical side-effects, dry socket, infections, general complications and neurological complications. The book is easy to read.

The illustrations are generally of high quality. The drawings illustrating surgical techniques are good and also understandable to an orthodontist. The references to some of the chapters are not quite up to date with, for example, only one from 1990 among 60 references in two chapters. The latest reference (out of 17) in the chapter on third molars (60 pages) is from 1982. The index is extensive, very detailed and most useful. For example, canine(s) has 34 subheadings and legal issues 16.

This book would be most valuable to oral surgeons and as a reference for dentists managing impacted teeth.

Jüri Kurol

Co-Plot—Graphics Software 3.0 (1995)

Publisher: CoHort Software, PO Box 19272, Minneapolis, MN55419

The machine used for the review was a Viglen Genie DX33 with 16 MB of RAM, 400 MB hard disk and a Hewlett Packard Deskjet 550C printer. Co-Plot is a DOS program but will run quite nicely in a DOS window under Microsoft Windows. It can be used either with or without a mouse, and with a number of digitizers, but I did not test this.

The installation instructions were very clear and there were no problems in installing it as a stand-alone DOS application and running it in a DOS window. The documentation on installation problems appeared very good, but I did not need to use it as the program was very well behaved.

The program is designed to work with its companion programs CoStat and CoDraw. It does, however, accept data input from other programs. I used Co-Plot with data from dBASE III, Stat Graphics, SPSS for Windows, Paradox, Microsoft Excel. For some, it was possible to import them in their native program format, others by creating d-BASE or ASCII files. The only limitation on data file