

Book Reviews

Postgraduate Notes in Orthodontics—MSc/MOrth programme

Authors: N. E. Attack, S. R. Turner, P. Thomas, C. Nattrass and J. R. Sandy

Publisher: Division of Child Dental Health, Dental School, Lower Maudlin Street, Bristol BS1 2LY, UK
ISBN: 0-862-92-459-6

Price: £45.00

This soft-covered book is orthodontics put through the mincer and the outcome spread in meaty bite-sized chunks over the pages. The style is shorn of all fat to the extent of using > for greater than, → for leads to, and ↑ for increased etc. A glossary of these symbols and abbreviations is given and they do not give rise to any difficulties with experience. Practice → ↑ comprehension.

The absence of full stops and upper case letters at the beginning of sentences, however, can lead to misinterpretation, especially as most of the text is in the form of one-liners. For example, 'intra-membranous ossification except for nasal cartilage growth occurs by apposition at sutures...' leaves one wondering whether growth applies to the nasal cartilage or whether it is the start of a fresh statement, until one realizes that the full stop has simply been removed and a bullet used opposite the beginning of the section. Whether this unusual style significantly allows compression of the text is debatable.

This book would not be suitable for a practitioner or vocational trainee working alone, but as an adjunct to tutorials or as a summary aimed at postgraduate students preparing for examinations, it is quite excellent. It does what it says on the cover.

The range of subjects and literature review is vast, and the authors have the happy talent (or diligence) for finding the kernels of truth in papers and of expressing them neatly. I did wonder about the order of chapters. I found the initial sections on bone metabolism, growth control, and craniofacial syndromes heavy going,

but I suppose young uncluttered minds would take them in their stride. The chapters on occlusion, malocclusion, diagnosis, treatment, relapse, and retention cover the literature very well with clear signposts to further reading, and there is a timely section which is ominously and economically labelled 'Risks'. There is a chapter towards the end of the book on research methods which students preparing dissertations will find particularly useful.

I am in two minds on the final 'Question and answer' section. Photographs produced by some cunning digital process each have three questions and the answers are given later. Yes, they should stimulate the mind—but only once—and some photographs are quite dark. One where the teeth can barely be seen is supposed to show enamel discolouration when my answer was sublingual haematoma. Failed again!

Not surprisingly, there are a few slips on the way through. The book does not know on which side of the Atlantic it belongs. The 'Programme' on the title page is succeeded by fetal in the interior. Fraser McDonald and Geoffrey Hopkin would not like the spelling of their names, Edward Angle described Class II division 1 malocclusions long before Ballard and Weyman thought up the incisor classification, and 'Interceptive Orthodontics' has been in the 3rd edition for some time. 'Tempero-mandibular' raises its ugly head.

If I were a postgraduate student anywhere in the world, I would rush out to order this book—I might do that anyway.

Andrew Richardson

LifeART 3D Super Anatomy 3 and 6 (CD-ROM)

Distributors: Healthworks, 30–38 Dock Street, Leeds LS10 1JF, UK [Tel: 44 (0) 113 234 6624] or 226 W Bitters Road, Suite 110–142, San Antonio, Texas 78216-2072, USA; <http://www.lifeart.com>

Price: Super Anatomy 3—£214 + VAT; Super Anatomy 6—£122 + VAT

These two CD-ROM disks contain collections of drawn images which are of relevance to dentists wishing to use them for printed output, slide production, and multimedia or video purposes. The images are grouped into sections such as Dental Anatomy, Dentition, Instruments, Orthodontics, Periodontics, and Procedures. The CDs are accompanied by booklets illustrating the images. It is quite easy to locate a particular image on the CD without having to install a program, although all the images can be viewed (and in some cases manipulated) using the optional 'Catalog reader' which has to be installed. The images are in colour and of high quality.

A Macintosh version is available. The reviewer used the Windows version. A 486 PC with at least 4 Mb RAM, a CD drive, and Windows 3.1 or later is required. Familiarity with an image-editing program is also essential for serious work involving manipulation of the images; for example, Microsoft Powerpoint, Adobe Illustrator, CorelDraw.

The 3D Super Anatomy 3 disk contains only TIFF bitmap images. Users will find that the 3D Super Anatomy 6 disk is to be preferred because images are available in vector graphic format (WMF, EPS, CGM) as well as in bitmap format (TIFF, BMF). The reviewer found it straightforward to import the image from vector format into CorelDraw, and then to 'ungroup' the image and edit it as required.

In summary, those wishing to prepare line drawings of dental topics will find the 3D Super Anatomy 6 disk very useful, although, of course, experience with an image-editing program is also required, because the images supplied cannot be expected to be exactly what is required.

Finally, a registered user is permitted to use up to 10 of the images in a single project providing it is not resold for profit. If profit is involved or more than 10 images an additional licensing fee is required.

J. K. Williams

Pathways of the Pulp, 7th edn (1998)

Editors: S. Cohen and R. C. Burns

Publisher: Mosby-Year Book, St Louis, USA

Price: £66

ISBN: 0-8151-8613-4

Pathways of the Pulp has become firmly established as the international reference textbook of endodontics. It is written for the American market by a large number of well-known contributors, and since its inception has had a new edition virtually every 4 years. Some of the contributors may have changed, but excellence has always remained paramount.

The book is divided into sections, the first of which covers diagnosis and treatment planning before progressing to cover root canal treatment in great detail. Inevitably, a chapter is devoted to the legal aspects of practising endodontics.

The second part covers the scientific basis of endodontics from pulp development to the pathology of apical periodontitis. Also included is a chapter on instruments, materials and devices. The whole section is excellent and up to date.

The third section embraces related clinical topics such as surgical endodontics, restoration of endodontically treated teeth, and endodontics in elderly people. In a subject such as surgical endodontics which has undergone a revolutionary change in the last 5 years, the text reflects current research and is well illustrated, but then it has been written by leading experts in the field.

The book concludes with a question and answer chapter to test the reader's knowledge. In earlier editions, the questions were found at the end of each chapter. The concept of testing the reader's knowledge is widespread in American dental schools and can encourage the conscientious reader to revise a section where he has chosen an incorrect answer.

Pathways of the Pulp is extremely good value, but will probably be considered too expensive by many undergraduate students and some general practitioners. I have no doubt that it will be very popular in the American market.

T. R. Pitt Ford