

## Book Reviews

### Orthodontic Materials. Scientific and Clinical Aspects (2000)

Editors: William A. Brantley and Theodore Eliades  
Publisher: George Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, Germany  
Price: DEM 178; €91.01  
ISBN: 3-13-125281-2

The pace of development of dental materials can be bewildering, and orthodontic materials are no exception. The appearance of this book is therefore timely. It is a specialized, though not overlong book, that deals with the fundamentals of the subject, in 15 chapters written by individual experts drawn from across the world.

The book begins with what is effectively an introduction to materials science, though it has been wisely entitled *Structures and properties of orthodontic materials*. It is followed by chapters on a range of topics, including mechanical testing, instrumental techniques, wires, cements, and so on. There is also an excellent chapter covering

the principles of biocompatibility, and another on allergies and related safety issues.

The book is beautifully presented, up-to-date, well illustrated and highly readable. My reviewer's copy is already becoming well thumbed, a sure indication of its usefulness. The book can be recommended to all those with an interest in the development of orthodontics, and should certainly become the text of choice in post-graduate education within this field. The editors and authors are to be congratulated on their excellent work.

John Nicholson

### Biological Anthropology of the Human Skeleton

Editors: M. Anne Katzenberg and Shelley R. Saunders  
Publisher: John Wiley & Sons Ltd, Chichester, West Sussex, UK  
Price: £61.50  
ISBN: 0-471-31616-4

This book has not been written for orthodontists, but much of the content will be relevant to those interested in skeletal biology and throughout the text, orthodontists will certainly find issues with which they can identify. The two editors are Canadian anthropologists and most of the contributors are anthropologists of various types, from the USA and Canada. Their objective and that of this book is to learn about people's lives, through evidence provided by their bones and teeth. The book describes the various problems encountered in achieving this. It is divided into five parts and begins with a consideration of the ethical problems encountered in trying to analyse bones and the 'use' of human remains; as museum attractions, as sources of

veneration or as deterrents, and even in macabre fashion, as a form of decoration. The early chapters focus on forensic anthropology and interestingly, include work by W. M. Krogman. There is a discussion on facial reproduction techniques, with estimation of facial soft tissue thicknesses by techniques such as ultrasound and magnetic resource imaging.

Part II is concerned with a variety of analytical techniques, as well as bone biomechanics. Bone rigidity has clearly decreased since the male's role as hunter-gatherer has passed through the agriculturist phase to the industrial! There is a chapter on dental morphology, which contains very useful advice by Mayhall, an oral anatomist from Toronto, including the correct use of