

Book Reviews

Orthodontics and Paediatric Dentistry (2000)

Authors: Declan Millett and Richard Welbury

Publisher: Churchill Livingstone, London

Price: £12.95

ISBN: 0-443-06287-0

Colour guides have always been invaluable tools of swift revision for students preparing for written or oral examinations. Their emphasis on illustration of the text makes learning more enjoyable and the material covered more memorable. As such, they also act as good sources of reference when refreshing one's knowledge on a particular subject. This small book is no exception. The two disciplines of orthodontics and paediatric dentistry are represented in two equal parts, each consisting of approximately 20 sections, with each covering one major clinical subject. Each section is illustrated with good quality and highly representative photographs or radiographs in a user-friendly style.

The format of such books inevitably has drawbacks, the main one being that the extent of the text on any given subject is dictated by the availability of space on a particular page. On the whole, the authors of this book have not fallen into this trap. In fact, running over onto the following page has been used as an opportunity to print more illustrations. For example, the sections on tooth trauma, an area of great confusion for many dental students, are indeed very comprehensive for a small book such as this.

There are other areas, however, that deserve more attention. The section on medical conditions is surprisingly incomplete and does not sufficiently elaborate on dental or general anaesthetic considerations. Conditions that require antibiotic cover prior to dental treatment and the current recommended regimens seem to be virtually absent from the text. The sections dealing with soft tissue conditions could have mentioned more detailed or specific treatments, e.g. the medication used in oral ulceration. Eruption times are not presented in a table and there is no mention of calcification dates.

Another possible criticism of the text is that primary tooth notations are represented in lower case, rather than in capital letters. Moreover, the introduction should perhaps state the system of tooth notation used in this book for those who are used to other systems.

Despite these shortcomings, this colour guide provides a concise and yet quite comprehensive resource mainly for undergraduate dental students and general practitioners. Postgraduate orthodontic students may also find this book a useful refresher during the early stages of their training programmes.

Mahmoud Pourghadiri

The Anatomical Basis of Dentistry, 2nd edn (2001)

Author: Bernard Leibgott

Publisher: Mosby, Inc., St Louis

Price: £49.95

ISBN: 0-323-01013-X

This is a standard text often used in the past by many dental students. The sections on the general aspects of anatomy are very good. It is

pleasing to see outlines of the different systems and definitions of ganglion, nucleus and cranial nerve given. The diagrams are good and clear.