

Book Reviews

Textbook of Orthodontics (2001)

Author: Samir Bishara

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This book was very good in parts, but missed the chance of being even better! I enjoyed reading it, even though I did not agree with all of the thinking behind some of the treatment approaches. Having said that, there were some excellent sections which I thought made a valuable contribution to the orthodontic literature.

This textbook (which runs to nearly 600 pages) does not aim to provide a definitive orthodontic approach to the treatment of all malocclusions. However, it does intend to give sufficient information to enable the clinician to diagnose the complexities of a given problem, whilst providing an overview of various treatment approaches applicable to some of these problems. To an extent, the book achieves these aims. The foreword suggests the book would be valuable for both undergraduates and postgraduates, and although the feel of it is more postgraduate it would certainly be a useful reference text for undergraduates.

The book is divided into six sections comprising 30 chapters, laid out in a logical manner. Illustrations are only in black and white, which was a shame. The first section starts with growth and development, and includes general embryology, head and neck development, principles of cleft lip and palate formation, as well as growth of the face, development of the arches, occlusion, and malocclusion. The next sections deal with orthodontic diagnosis and aspects of treatment planning before leading onto orthodontic appliances, how they work and steps in treatment. The second half of the book is devoted to treatment of malocclusions in the primary, mixed, and permanent dentitions, including the various skeletal components and their interactions, before finishing off with sections on other aspects related to orthodontic treatment (periodontal behavioural, and tissue

changes such as root resorption) and orthodontics combined with adjunctive treatment such as surgery. Many cases are illustrated which undoubtedly have severe malocclusions, but some did appear to have extremely mild malocclusions which seems to reflect the difference in approach on the other side of the Atlantic.

The chapters on facial growth and development are certainly very clear, but it was disappointing to find only the most limited information on developments such as homeobox (HOX) genes and, surprisingly, whilst some of the problems associated with clefting are covered, details of their treatment are very cursory. Furthermore, in the chapters on development of the occlusion and arches, the need to monitor the eruption of the upper permanent canines and the problems they cause is not mentioned, which is a strange oversight given the book's intentions to provide 'fundamentals'. Even supernumeraries do not get a mention and strangely, for a book that provides considerable mechanical detail, there is no mention of the Tip Edge appliance. Finally, I did have a problem accepting all that was said regarding serial extractions. This chapter seemed unbalanced; for example, stressing the positive about serial extractions may be acceptable to some clinicians but the full sequence of extractions can only be appropriate in certain, very limited cases. The fact that numerous extractions (and hence local anaesthetics) would be needed to carry out the whole sequence was not mentioned. This alone may make the technique unacceptable for many children.

Chapter 7 on facial and dental changes in adolescence was based on the Iowa Growth Study material, and the chapters in section V, which covered aspects of the periodontal and behavioural considerations of orthodontics

(including the psychology of adolescence) together with root resorption chapters and medical problems in adults (such as osteoporosis and diabetes), were excellent. Few orthodontic texts give these subjects the coverage they deserve; here, up-to-date information is provided, which is likely to become increasingly valuable as more patients with complex problems come forward and as our armamentarium increases, for example, with the advance of implants.

Other aspects of the book could leave one debating the pros and cons for some time. Personally, I would have expected to see more detail on the tooth movements often undertaken in orthognathic cases, rather than relatively

greater detail on the surgical aspects; also there seemed a surprising amount of detail on the use of Fränkel appliances and chin cups for the correction of Class III malocclusions, bearing in mind their questionable value, but I suppose one could argue that these should be included for completeness.

Overall, I would certainly recommend this text as good reference material. Had it covered some of the basics more fundamentally and updated some aspects more comprehensively, it would be a 'must' but for me, personally, it just missed being as good as it could have been.

F. Luther

Dental Education in Europe

Editor: Diarmuid B. Shanley

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This small softbound book is a report of the DentEd Thematic Network Project, which seeks to promote convergence of standards of dental education in Europe. The project was funded by the EU and there were valuable links with the American Dental Education Association. The book has been circulated to all dental and stomatological institutes in Europe. Additional copies are available from the School of Dental Science, Trinity College, Dublin 2, Ireland.

I expect that many readers will approach this book with an element of prejudice. Those who favour organization, rules, commonality in education, and a 'United States of Europe' will rush into it with pleasurable anticipation, especially if the book falls open at page 164 headed 'Towards Globalization—the next step!' Other more liberal Euro-sceptics, who argue that free thinking and expression of ideas is what makes dentistry a university subject, will groan at the prospect of yet more unenforceable edicts and rules. The Editor of this Journal knows to which category I belong and I know he smiled

when he sent me the book. For myself, I smiled too, because it arrived on the day the Irish people rejected the Nice proposals.

But wait a minute. The investigation revealed 'unacceptable treatment modalities that cause unnecessary trauma and pain', 'injudicious interventions ... which may be life-threatening', and 'failure to recognise the early oral signs of serious systemic diseases such as cancer'. These are serious matters, which should give concern to all clinicians no matter what their nationality or political affiliations. Having said that, the authors admit that convergence of undergraduate programmes to the extent that students are equipped to work in any European country is unattainable on account of variations in funding, staffing, equipment, and language difficulties.

The book is very well laid out with clear headings and short chapters. There were over 200 participants sourced from various bodies such as the Association for Dental Education in Europe and the Erasmus exchange programme. Some were self-appointed. Communication was

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