

dental trauma with a good general overview of what is an extensive topic. Dental anomalies are discussed in the next chapter and this is followed by an account of the paedodontic/orthodontic interface. These two chapters follow on well from each other, as much of the orthodontic discussion focuses on treatment in the mixed dentition and dental anomalies. The importance of assessment including the use of IOTN (Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need) is introduced, but as is to be expected in a general paediatric dentistry text, the coverage is too brief to be comprehensive. Having said this, there is a good account of interceptive orthodontics, an area that is important for the intended reader to understand. There is also a more balanced view of the complications of orthodontic treatment.

Chapter 15 discusses oral pathology/surgery in the child patient and the book finishes with two chapters on the specific problems that can be encountered when undertaking the treatment of children with specific disabilities and medical conditions.

The general lay-out of the book is excellent. A detailed contents page precedes each chapter and there is an informative reference list at the end that gives the reader not only the reference, but also a brief sentence detailing the content

of the indicated reference. The text is divided sensibly within each chapter, and there is good use of tables and bullet lists, all of which help to keep the reader's interest. It has good colour illustrations and practical advice on many of the subjects. The book makes use of highlighted 'key-points' within the text, but whilst these are utilized well in some areas, in others they act as a distraction. Each chapter finishes with a summary; again, these are better in some chapters than others, often being too brief to be useful.

Overall this is a clear, well laid out text; however, much of the information is of a general nature, which is to be expected in a book of this type. The aim is to give an overview of the subject and readers are directed to other relevant texts and references at the appropriate areas.

The book is principally aimed at the undergraduate student and, in this light, both in content and pricing fulfils its role well. Although not aimed at the orthodontic reader it provides a good overview and revision with many of the topics being common to both specialities. I would recommend it to anyone wanting an overview of the subject.

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Dentistry for the Child and Adolescent, 7th edition (2000)

Authors: Ralph E. McDonald and David R. Avery
 Publisher: Mosby Inc., St Louis
 Price: £51.95
 ISBN: 0-8151-9017-4

This hardback publication comprises 30 chapters with 610 black and white illustrations on 848 pages. It is an expanded and thorough revision with updated guidelines of the six previous editions, which have been in print since 1969. The book is designed for undergraduate, as well as post-doctoral dental students, and provides easy access to information enabling its readers to provide care for patients. At the same time, this thoroughly indexed textbook manages to serve

as an initial reference for further postgraduate studies of the subject.

The 35 American contributors cover a wide range of aspects in paediatric dentistry: from genetics to dental materials and from tumours of the oral soft tissues to treatment of deep caries. There are chapters focusing on 'Dental Problems of Children with Disabilities' and 'Management of the Medically Compromised Patient: haematology, oncology, hepatitis and

AIDS'. Psychological approaches in paediatric dentistry are also well documented and there is a chapter drawing the reader's attention to the signs of child abuse.

Within the confines of a textbook the authors often try to give a balanced view on controversial subjects instead of being dogmatic. For example, in chapter 28, which focuses on the 'Multidisciplinary Team Approach to Cleft Lip and Palate Management', the reader will find that a considerable amount of space is dedicated to the discussion of surgical techniques and treatment outcome of primary versus secondary alveolar cleft bone grafting. One should, however, keep in mind that the book was originally designed for the American market and that not all of the author's conclusions will be shared around the world. Also recommendations and guidelines

given in chapters on radiographic techniques, hospital dental services for children and the use of general anaesthesia, practice management, and community oral health may not apply in other countries. The chapters touching on orthodontics: 'Growth of the Face and the Dental Arches', 'Cephalometrics and Facial Esthetics: the key to complete treatment planning', 'Managing the Developing Occlusion' are well written and provide a good introduction to the subject.

The price of £51.95 is not expensive for this comprehensive helpful textbook. Overall, it is well structured, easy to read and an excellent resource for students and clinicians, and I am sure this book will be as successful in the future as the six predecessors have been in the past.

Dirk Bister