

advanced knowledge of orthodontics would be required to be able to understand the contents.

Ten areas of orthodontics are covered, namely: (1) Ideal Occlusion; (2) Examination and Diagnosis; (3) Treatment Planning; (4) Pathology; (5) Removable; (6) Functional and (7) Fixed Appliances; (8) Anchorage; (9) Problems; and (10) Retention. The chapters are structured in a logical way, the questions are easy to understand and the answers, although short, are to the point. In general, the illustrations are of high quality. No list of references is included.

In the question part of the book, each page contains an illustration (an intraoral image of a malocclusion, for example), and the reader is asked to describe what he/she sees. Up to eight additional questions related to the problem shown in the illustration are then asked. The number of such question/illustration pages varies from chapter to chapter. The section 'Examination and Diagnosis', for example, consists of 27 illustration/question pages, whereas other sections such as 'Ideal Occlusion', 'Functional Appliances', and 'Retention' only contain two or three pages.

The book has been written primarily for undergraduate students. Bearing this in mind,

some of the topics dealt with seem advanced. A decision about extraction treatment, for example, is usually based on quite sophisticated analyses and diagnostic procedures, which may be difficult for the undergraduate student to understand. A further example is found in the 'Fixed Appliance' section where one of the questions and answers deals with the properties of heat activated nickel titanium alloys. Although the discussion of this topic may be very relevant in a book about orthodontics, it could be questioned whether undergraduate students in general have sufficient knowledge to understand the complicated characteristics of these materials.

By its nature, a book of this type can only provide limited and rather superficial information about such a specialized field as orthodontics. However, the book is very stimulating to read and the contents could certainly awaken an interest for further orthodontic studies. Moreover, as a complement to other literature, and as a basis for discussions about orthodontic topics, a question and answer book of this type could be very useful.

Carl-Magnus Forsberg

McMinn's Interactive Clinical Anatomy—Version 2.0, CD Rom (2001)

Author: Peter H. Abrahams

Publisher: Harcourt Publishers Limited, London

Price: £65.00

ISBN: 0-7234-3219-8

This is the first time that I have used this type of teaching media and, clearly, it is fascinating and highly informative. It is, of course, hard to throw oneself back to being a first year student faced with anatomy for the first time. Despite this some of the difficulties still remain etched in the brain, together with the smell of formalin and jokes in extremely bad taste. The primary problem for students is the terminology and trying to create a three-dimensional picture of the structures. In this respect, the CD still only provides two-dimensional images and often the illustrations are less clear than text books. The dissections, the biggest shortcoming of most students, are immaculate and clear. Added to

this are many other facets, function, clinical notes, animated images, history and histology. This all results in a wonderful package.

Does it have relevance beyond medical and dental students? Certainly, it has uses for post-graduate examinations and, of course, illustrating lectures and papers. However, it does not have the specialized detail for modern surgeons who have sub-specialized into smaller and small compartments.

It is easy to use and reasonably quick to function, without too much loss of image quality. It is not a virtual body, but it is well worth purchasing.

Peter Ward Booth