

efficacy of fixed retainers? How did they derive a sample size? Did the power calculations give all appropriate information? Was the trial properly monitored?

This booklet has none of these parameters, it is written by someone who clearly has enormous clinical experience of using bonded retainers. There is a statement that sums up the author's approach where he feels that fixed retainers are the only solution for preventing relapse and unfavourable tooth movements which are seen in adulthood. Most orthodontists would agree with

this latter statement and thereafter a number of cases are used to illustrate the use of bonded retainers. The illustrations are good and there are some interesting clinical tips which are well illustrated. I am not entirely clear who this book is aimed at, it would certainly make an interesting read for most postgraduates but the author might reconsider the use of his title at some stage to give a more accurate reflection of the content of his work.

Jonathan Sandy

History of Periodontology (2003)

Editors: Fermín Carranza and Gerard Shklar

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In scope, this is a 200-page work of history. It is written in a general way and represents a stroll through developments in dentistry and periodontology. It is not a work of dental science and is not a challenging read.

The first hundred pages deal with general matters of scientific and medical interest taking the reader, in stages, from the prehistoric era through to the twentieth century. There are many entertaining cameo quotes from well known early authors and much of this material relates to the oral cavity and the specifically the periodontal tissues. For example, Celsus is cited as recommending the use of undiluted wine to be held against the gums in the event that they bleed. Orthodontics is mentioned, as early as page 33, in a discussion by Abulcasis (born 936) of the merits of filing prominent teeth.

There are some details of early microscopy and anaesthetic developments. The photographs and figures in this book show an array of dignitaries. There is a daguerrotype from 1846 of an operation under ether anaesthesia with William Morton wearing a garish

waistcoat. Particularly interesting are the radiographs of the hand of Röntgen's wife from 1895 and Walkhoff's own teeth from the same period.

The history of the twentieth century is more an account of the personalities of periodontology rather than their science. There is a photograph of Sicher, Orban and Weinmann gathered around a monofocal microscope. This is consistent with the forward to a book that seeks to identify the contribution of the pioneers. Readers will note that the book is written from a North American point of view and, as a result, much of the more recent European contribution to periodontology is subject to *précis*. There is also included, throughout the book, a background of general world and European history, which many would have difficulty in recognising.

The book list citations at the end of each chapter and these help to confirm it as more of a coffee table edition for the common room than reference work for the library.

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