

## Book Reviews

### Pickard's Manual of Operative Dentistry 8th edition (2003)

Authors: E. A. M. Kidd, B. G. N. Smith and T. F. Watson

Publisher: Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK

Price: £35.00

ISBN: 0-19-850928-6

As the authors state in their preface, it is 41 years since the book was first published, and it is still recommended on students' reading lists. That is evidence enough that the authors have kept it abreast of current concepts over the period. Oral disease has changed over that time, as has the dentist's approach from one of isolated treatment episodes to patient management with a major emphasis on prevention.

The book is divided into three sections: disease, treatment and maintenance. For the new edition a chapter on 'bonding to tooth structure' has been added to reflect the developments in operative dentistry, particularly bonding to dentine. The underlying materials science is intermingled with the clinical application. With the continual development of tooth coloured restorative materials and bonding, the role of amalgam as a restorative material has been reduced. For the occlusal

cavity, the authors now advocate composite resin instead of amalgam, but they still recommend amalgam for large approximal restorations in posterior teeth.

The book is well laid out, profusely illustrated in colour and easy to read. The authors advise readers to search computer databases of the literature from keywords listed at the beginning of each chapter. Perhaps this is why the further reading at the end of each chapter is particularly brief. This reviewer would like to have seen more comprehensive references to existing literature. The new edition is an excellent introductory text for undergraduates, and reflects the modern patient centred approach to oral health. At this price no student should be without it, and many a practitioner would benefit from being updated in the application of contemporary materials science.

T R Pitt Ford

### Oral cells and tissues (2003)

Author: Philias R. Garant

Publisher: Quintessence Publishing Co. Ltd., New Malden, Surrey, UK

Price: £68.00

ISBN: 0-86715-429-2

The author of this (large) paperback is a research scientist and professor in the Department of Periodontics at the State University of New York, Stony Brook, USA where he is also Director of the Basic Science Education course for clinical postdoctoral programs. As such, he has a wealth of basic science research experience and it is no surprise that as stated in the preface, the wish was to produce a book which would bring our understanding of the basic biology of the oral cavity to bear on the daily clinical practice of dentistry. The book must therefore be seen in this context and the flood of new information that has arisen particularly since the deciphering of the human genome. The book (intended for dental students or researchers new to the biology of the oral cavity) is laid out in 14 chapters, starting with Early Tooth Development, the chapters progress logically through: Dentine; Enamel; Oral Mucosa; Gingiva and Periodontal Ligament, Root Formation; Cementogenesis;

Bone; Salivary Glands; Oral Somatosensory Systems; Muscle; Cartilage and Temporomandibular Joint; the Immune System and finally Phagocytic Cells. This book therefore aims to be pretty comprehensive and each chapter (supported by numerous references) finishes with either basic science or clinical correlations or both.

Nevertheless, whilst a huge area is covered, and in some detail, readers should be aware of some reservations. The text is enlivened with colourful diagrams and (mostly) monochrome pictures (including SEMs, histological sections etc.) intended to aid understanding but many of the diagrams are themselves quite complicated and overall, both the text and diagrams tend to provide information overload in the effort of avoiding oversimplification. At £68 it is probably also quite expensive for undergraduates and is unlikely to be an easy read for that group: any undergraduate would need to have a good basic understanding of molecular biology and