

Book reviews

Heinemann Dental Dictionary, 4th edn (1997)

Author: Jenifer Fairpo and C. Gavin Fairpo

Publisher: Butterworth Heinemann, Oxford, U.K.

Price: £15.99

ISBN: 0 7506 2208 3

This is the fourth edition of this publication and, in addition to the comprehensive dictionary of dental terms, the text is supplemented by the following sections: a list of commonly used initial abbreviations, tables of arteries, muscles, nerves and veins of the head and neck, and an appendix listing dental journals/periodicals. The dictionary has been compiled primarily to meet the needs

of the dental student. It, however, will be of value to postgraduate students, secretaries, and many others. A quick check amongst the editorial staff of the *European Journal of Orthodontics* revealed no obvious omissions and the book can be recommended without hesitation.

Robert D. Evans

Mammalian Cell Culture (1997)

Editors: A. Doyle and J. Bryan Griffiths

Publisher: John Wiley & Sons Limited, Chichester, West Sussex, UK

Price: £17.99

ISBN: 0 471 97057 3

This is the eleventh book in the Essential Techniques Series. The earlier publications have described methods such as gel electrophoresis and antibody production, as well as several techniques based on gene technology. A book describing the essentials of culture techniques of mammalian cells is very welcome, despite the fact that most of the techniques are not novel at all. In fact, cell culture has been a routine method in biological research for decades and the various technical aspects have been thoroughly described in numerous manuals over the years.

The particular feature that makes this book welcome is its concise and practical nature. Today, researchers in biosciences, including biomedicine, need a wider range of techniques, and application of one or more cell culture techniques is essential in almost every project. What scientists need are detailed protocols which are concisely presented and cover a variety of technical aspects and this is exactly what this book does. In only 173 pages, important features of cell culturing in general, as well as the most

widely used cell culture techniques are presented by professionals who have also tested the methods.

The topics in this book include practical instructions for setting up a cell culture laboratory, description of cell culture media, protocols for various types of primary cell cultures, and core techniques such as subculturing, cell counting, cloning and storage of cells. In addition, there is a section on quality assessment of cultures including topics such as detection and elimination of contamination by mycoplasma and bacteria, and another section on the methods for cell identification. Finally, a variety of techniques for immortalization are presented.

All chapters include a very short theoretical section with selected references, and detailed protocols which are accompanied by a 'Notes' section pointing out practical hints and pitfalls. In addition, the time needed for each protocol is given. The book contains an Appendix with contact information of material suppliers.

The book is small in size and spiral bound, which makes it a handy manual to be used in the

laboratory. My only slight criticism is the scarcity of illustrations. The book contains only 8 figures. On the other hand, the book, being a concise summary of techniques, will conceivably not be the only source of technical information on cell culture in any laboratory.

In summary, I can warmly recommend this book both to laboratories with previous experience in cell culture techniques, and to those who are starting to set up cell culture for the first time.

Irma Thesleff

The Orthodontic Treatment of Impacted Teeth (1997)

Author: Adrian Becker

Publisher: Martin Dunitz Limited, London, UK

Price: £65

ISBN: 1 85317 328 2

This is a nicely produced book with copious illustrations, many of them showing orthodontic procedures at the time of surgery. The colour temperature favours the reds so that the effect may be slightly gory to some eyes, but the important points are well made. In a book about impacted teeth it is remarkable that third molars are barely mentioned nor is the fashionable vertical parallax method in the chapter on radiography. It is not a book on treatment of the standard malocclusions but is a fascinating free-thinking account of the aetiology, diagnosis and treatment of faulty development of individual teeth with emphasis on the periodontal outcome. For an author who rarely lectures in English it is a remarkably good read in an engagingly conversational, almost argumentative style with valuable discussions and literature reviews on such topics as dilacerated upper incisors, ectopic canines, treatment of adults, and cleidocranial dysplasia. The principal treatment strategy is bonding of custom-made eyelet attachments at operation with long light ligatures brought out through incisions or pinholes in the surgical flap which is replaced immediately. The author claims

96.9 per cent reliability for these attachments, which is probably better than most of us achieve under less difficult circumstances. The dental arches are prepared in advance to provide anchorage for traction on the unerupted teeth. The fenestration of gingival tissue by a bulky Siamese bracket is well illustrated in Figure 4.3, but the position of the bracket on the erupted lateral incisor is unusual. Devotees of the straight-wire or standard Edgewise appliances in routine malocclusions will have their eyes opened by the inevitable modifications necessary in these unusual cases. The appliances are sturdy rather than delicate, workman-like rather than sophisticated. The basic principles of today and yesterday are brought together in individualistic creations in tubing, wire and solder of which any engineer would be proud. The Toronto–Melbourne, Belfast–Hamburg and Jerusalem approaches to cleidocranial dysplasia are fully discussed in the final chapter. The author comes down heavily on the side of the Jerusalem method. He may say so, but I, as an impartial reviewer, could not possibly comment on that.

Andrew Richardson