

Book reviews

A Guide to Dental Radiography, 4th edn (1998)

Authors: Rita Mason and Sarah Bourne

Publisher: Oxford University Press, Oxford

Price: Hardback £65.00, Paperback £32.50

ISBN: 0-19-262672-8 (Hardback), 0-19-262671-X (Paperback)

The fourth edition of this dental radiography guide has been extended to include more chapters, e.g. digital dental radiology, dental implants and radiography. However, the basic chapters describing the many techniques for intraoral radiography are still the most convincing in the book. Unfortunately, there are a large number of printing errors (1 or 2 per page), which at times is annoying to the reader.

The chapter on digital radiography gives a short introduction to digital imaging and also mentions equipment by manufacturer's name. Strangely enough, one of these trade names is also included in the title of the chapter. Whilst the chapter gives a fairly good overview of digital imaging, misleading information occurs, e.g. one of the 'disadvantages in digital dental systems is the narrow exposure latitude'. It also appears superfluous that much of the description of the direct digital systems is repeated in the chapter on 'factors effecting the radiograph image'.

For orthodontists, the description of radiography of the face and skull and cephalometry are of particular interest. In the chapters on extraoral radiography, cephalometry is mentioned as a technique which demonstrates views of the facial

bones. The terminology, however, is confusing as cephalometry meaning 'measurements of the head' is defined as a radiographic technique. Thus, there appears to be a mixture of the radiographic techniques, which image the face and skull in various projections, and the use of these radiographs by orthodontists (e.g. for cephalometry).

Whilst the idea of small 'key points', enhanced in shaded boxes in the margins of the pages, is appreciated, these 'key points' of important information are in many cases lacking titles. Adding titles would give the reader a one-glance perception of what the 'key point box' refers to. In some of the chapters the 'key points' actually do have titles, e.g. the chapters for intraoral radiography I and II in which the bitewing, the paralleling, and the bisecting angle techniques are described.

The guide is still a good and solid book for learning the various radiographic techniques, in particular intra-oral ones. For radiography used in orthodontics, other text books may be more useful.

Ann Wenzel

Atlas of Advanced Orthodontics: A Guide to Clinical Efficiency

Author: Anthony D. Viazis

Publisher: W B Saunders Company, Philadelphia

Price: £105.00

ISBN: 0 7216 7637 5

The title of this book promises clinical efficiency and this is shown impressively in the 600 illustrations of this 'colorful step-by-step approach' (as stated in the introduction). The author describes fixed appliance mechanics using

his triangular bracket system with superelastic archwires. The majority of the illustrated cases were treated with only two archwires, in a short time, and generally to a high standard. In some patients, however, asymmetric smile lines were

present before and after treatment, a problem which is not unusual when straight wire mechanics are used. Some treatment recommendations cannot be left without discussion: chin cup therapy has been shown to be effective in Class III treatment, if used early enough. So why wait until growth is finished and then perform a mandibular set-back operation? As far as I know, there is no proof to the author's claim that lower arch expansion before eruption of the permanent canines should be more or less stable. Occlusal adjustment as a standard method of refining the occlusion after debonding is controversial, to say the least.

It may be beyond the scope of an atlas to go into more detail on diagnostic topics, but this text is kept quite superficial. Consequently, this book cannot be recommended wholeheartedly to inexperienced orthodontists. A sound

theoretical and practical base is a prerequisite for successful application of the described technique. Additionally, the references seem to be rather 'America-orientated' and have not been cited in the text, which makes looking for further reading difficult.

Several misprints reduce the joy of reading. The colour of a number of illustrations is too bright and some have been printed the wrong way around. The reviewer would have wished a more accurate check of text and pictures before printing.

In conclusion, the reviewer experienced a mixture of positive surprises and some slight annoyance. The price of the book seems to be rather high, in spite of the huge number of illustrations.

Frank Weiland

Human Growth after Birth (1998)

Authors: David Sinclair and Peter Dangerfield

Publisher: Oxford University Press, Oxford

Price: £18.95

ISBN: 0-19-262905-0

It would seem that a book now published as its sixth edition does not require any reviewing. Some comments may perhaps still be presented.

The text, which is based on the classics in the field, has been brought up to date with selected references of recent literature.

On the very first page there is an important statement: 'The fact that growth is such a commonplace experience affecting all living things has perhaps hindered proper investigation of the factors involved and it is only within the last 20 years or so that scientists have begun to understand the complex processes involved'. Starting out from this premise it can be said that the book is very useful reading for postgraduate students of orthodontics, for instance, and also for novice researchers in the field of human growth and development. By the same token, the text may appear somewhat superficial for the reader interested in the growth of the

craniofacial complex. There are no references to theories on craniofacial growth that differ from each other regarding essential matters such as growth at sutures, for instance. On the other hand, chapter 11 'Old age' is extremely informative, and the matter is dealt with down to the tissue and cell level! There are also some minor omissions, such as on page 51 the height in cm of John Middleton is missing.

Illustrations are informative and the message of the lucid text is amply exemplified, occasionally with pictures picked from pages of history of the Commonwealth.

The list of references includes mainly texts of a review nature. Although there is no alphabetic index, the text in its present form comprises an excellent hand-book as the list of contents is well composed with helpful subtitles.

Olli Rönning

Historie de L'Orthodontie. Ses origines, son archeologie et ses precurseurs (1997)

Author: Carlos Gysel

Publisher: Heymans Foundation, Gent, Belgium

ISBN: 90-803977-1-7

The works of B. W. Weinberger have been at our disposal since 1926 in a book devoted to the history of orthodontics. It is regrettable, however, that the book primarily concentrated on American orthodontists, omitting the important and valuable role of, in particular, European orthodontists. Carlos Gysel, a dental science graduate of the University of Louvain, Belgium, was a respected member of the European orthodontic community and organised the 47th Congress of the EOS at Knokke-Zoute in 1971. He is the author, in association with the 'Société Belge d'Orthodontie', of a book in French on 'The history of orthodontics, its origins, its archaeology and its forerunners' which describes the origins and archaeology of 'tooth straightening' from the earliest times, with particular reference to Europe. Carlos Gysel was an eminent orthodontist and fervent humanist who devoted all his spare time to studying the history of medicine and in particular orthodontics amassing a vast collection of ancient and modern texts dealing with the subject.

The book commences with general considerations on 'Palaeontology' and the art of healing from prehistoric times through the Egyptian, Greek and Roman civilizations, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance period. The importance of Albrecht Dürer's 'Treaty on Proportions' (the first classical text in orthodontics) is described, including the use of the mesh diagram analysis showing facial and profile projection to illustrate proportionality. One chapter of the book is dedicated to morphological appreciation with reference to the French authors including Baron (1888), Sigaud (1913), Manouvrier (1935), de Nevrezé (1936), and Martiny (1955) and the Italian school represented by Viola (1909), Pendé

(1928) and Muzji (1968). These works, almost forgotten today, deserve to be remembered. Of particular interest to orthodontists is the bibliographic study of the 'early' days of orthodontics in its 'pre-Fauchardian' era (1543–1728), followed by Fauchard's technique (1678–1761) and some of his contemporaries, Bunon (1702–1748) or followers, Bourdet (1722–1789). Carlos Gysel did not forget the contribution of German authors such as Pfaff (1713–1766) or the Anglo-Saxons, including Berdmore (1740–1785) and Hunter (1728–1793). A whole chapter of his book is devoted to the scientific aspects of post-Hunterian orthodontists, from Blake (1798) to Nasmyth (1839) dealing essentially with the progress of tooth biology, identification of classification of abnormalities, and aetiology. The disputes between authors such as Blake and Hunter, Delabarre and Duval, Miel and Serres, Lefoulon, and Schange, Fox and Lefoulon are highlighted. It is most interesting to observe the evolution of concepts underlying orthodontic practice, noting that they already existed a long time ago and that the former disputes are still with us.

Knowing Carlos Gysel and being aware of his love of orthodontics, the book concludes with more general considerations concerning the profession and aspects of orthodontics, the status of orthodontics and its justification. The quantity and quality of the information in this book is a tribute to Carlos Gysel, and deserves a place in the collection of contemporary orthodontists, particularly those interested in the history of orthodontics and its relationship to clinical practice.

Charles Bolender

Pocket Atlas of Oral Diseases (1998)

Author: George Laskaris
Publisher: Thieme, Stuttgart
Price: DM48.00
ISBN: 3-13-107471-X

According to the author, this book is intended to serve as a quick chairside guide for any dental and medical student, for the family practitioner, dermatologist, otorhinolaryngologist, and other medical specialists who are involved in the diagnosis and treatment of oral diseases.

The role of an orthodontist in detecting oral lesions and/or oral manifestations of general diseases should not be overlooked, and thus this atlas should also be suitable for every orthodontist.

The book is divided into 12 chapters based on the morphological classification of the lesions as they appear clinically. For each disease, in total more than 200, a very clear and concise definition and aetiology is described. Further subtitles revealing most typical clinical features, preferred laboratory tests, differential diagnosis, and treatment are presented.

For this type of book the colour prints are most valuable. The illustrations are representative and clear enough without being printed in glossy style. The advantage of paper prints may clearly be noticed in the very moderate price of the book. In some of the pictures too much unnecessary extra-oral tissues are shown which hide the focus of interest.

In the description of the aetiology of drug-induced pigmentation I missed chlorhexidine as a quite frequently used antibacterial agent. I was also puzzled to learn that a periodontal abscess should be treated by antibiotics and periodontal treatment—what about the classical treatment—incision and proper drainage? Angular cheilitis is shown in a patient with banded orthodontic appliances without mentioning that this appliance probably could contribute to the described condition. Instead, reduction of vertical face dimension is proposed as the main cause—this is, however, a matter of controversy. Taking into consideration the differential diagnosis between a simple papilloma and a verrucous carcinoma, I was surprised that, in the case of a papilloma, there was no suggestions for verifying the clinical diagnosis.

Altogether, I enjoyed this atlas. In addition to the easily adopted contents, the handy size and neat design makes this atlas an attractive supplement to the orthodontic armament—for only DM48.00 you have the chance to broaden your diagnostic skills.

Jan Huggare