

letters

These pages offer you the chance to open topics for debate, discuss issues, or even offer advice to fellow readers. Send us your views on anything published in *Vital* or anything to do with working in the dental industry. We look forward to hearing from you.

Down to earth dentist

What a ghastly experience the dental nurse relates regarding the young female dentist with whom she works (*Female dictatorships* winter 06). It's regrettable but I believe every word of it. Hopefully, I have never been like that (my staff have been with me for 17 years) and I think my father's down to earth approach helped a lot. When I won the prize and distinction in pharmacology, my father handed me a mop and, in front of everyone said: 'you are uniquely qualified to wash the floor of a chemist shop' Yes, take your job seriously, but not yourself.

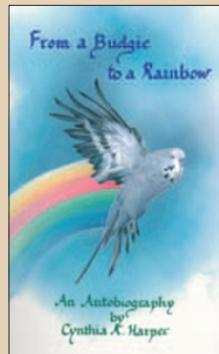
On another note, I recently wrote the enclosed book which I would like you to have, as it gives some idea of dental training in the 1960s-70s.*

Miss Cynthia A. Harper,
Dental Surgeon,
Brighton

Cynthia wins Colgate Oral Health Professional products (£100 RRP) courtesy of Colgate.

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***Editor's note:** *From budgie to rainbow* is a lively account of Cynthia's career in dentistry – I enjoyed reading it! Priced £6.99, it is available from Amherst Publishing, Longmore House High Street, Otford, Kent TN14 5PG, Telephone 01959 525600.



'I would read the obituaries in the Dental Journal and marvel at the three jobs, seven hobbies and six children descriptions of the unfortunates. I felt exhausted reading these and wondered how they had managed to live so long...' (page 132)

Star Letter

letters

Female dictatorships

The reason that I became what I am now is due to giving my dental nurse the chance to become what she is now. I am a dental nurse who has been working in dentistry for over 20 years. I have had many different experiences during my time in dentistry. One of the most memorable was when I started working for a female dentist. She was very strict and demanding. She would always make sure that we did everything to the best of our ability. She would also make sure that we were always up to date with our knowledge and skills. She was very good at her job and I respect her greatly. I am now a dental nurse myself and I am happy with my job. I am grateful for the opportunity to work for such a wonderful dentist.

Please SEND YOUR LETTERS to: The Editor, *Vital Magazine*, BDJ, Nature Publishing Group, 4-6 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW, or email vital editorial@nature.com

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Blatant sexism

I was disgusted with the letter written by the anonymous contributor (*Female dictatorships* winter 06). This is blatant sexism as certainly not all female dentists are nasty and male dentists heavenly. I am sorry that this person has been treated badly by 'A female dentist'. She did only mention the one female dentist and has not worked with any others to find out the difference. I would like to see a retraction of her warning about working with female dentists, and change it to 'don't work with that particular female dentist'.

Having worked as a dental nurse while

training and now having my own practice for over 20 years, with many employees and associates over that time, people are very diverse, and you cannot stereotype for gender, race, age or anything else. You can no more say that 'all female dentists are bad' than you could say that 'all Welsh dentists are bad' for example. Both are examples of bigotry and are indefensible in this day and age.

Dr Teresa Day

(Female dentist with a team of happy, loyal, well treated, well paid professional dental nurses and support staff), by email