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Periodontal Diseases — A Manual of Diagnosis, Treatment, and Maintenance

H. R. Preus and L. Laurell
Surrey: Quintessence, 2003
price £33, pp89
ISBN 1850970726

Contrary to expectations, considering its weighty title, this is a very short and very personal book written by two practising and teaching periodontists of great experience. It contains a strategy for the management of people with periodontal diseases and declares itself, in the preface, to be not so much a textbook, but rather a manual for the interested clinician. In this aim, at least, the book succeeds in that it sets down the authors' philosophy with no references whatsoever, not even any mentioned in the text. The omission of even a few key references, in my view, deprives the book of much of its practical significance, and almost all of its authority.

There are 7 chapters, the longest being devoted to mechanical treatment, including surgery, and the chapter on the use of antibiotics separates this chapter from that on advanced surgery. There are also chapters dealing with diagnosis, risk factors, and maintenance, and a useful chapter at the end on treatment strategies.

The authors make it clear that cooperation with a periodontist is essential for a general practitioner and also emphasizes the importance of realising that there are several periodontal diseases. The correct identification of the patient's disease enables a reasoned prognosis and effective treatment. There is a thoughtful section on the motivation of patients, a subject so important and yet, strangely very little discussed nowadays.

The text is littered with irritating typographical errors and grammatical

aberrations and the reader really does not need to know that modified mattress sutures are 'traditionally used to line the buttonholes in Norwegian male traditional folk suites' (sic) particularly in a book cut to the bone to eliminate non-essential information.

There is also over one page devoted to bacterial resistance to antibiotics, yet no consideration of the role and scope of treatment planning for periodontal patients.

The persistent use of the quaint term 'Roentgenograms' does little to inspire confidence in the modernity of the authors' approach.

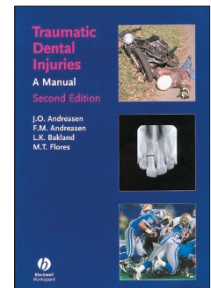
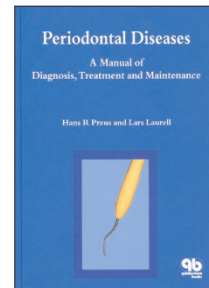
These matters of style unfortunately detract from what is otherwise a useful overview of the treatment of periodontal diseases today. With a little more vigorous editing, it could perhaps have been recommended as a primer for the practising dentist and hygienist.

P. Greene

Traumatic Dental Injuries — A Manual (2nd edition)

J. O. Andreasen, F. M. Andreasen, L. K. Bakland and
M. T. Flores
Oxford: Blackwell, 2003
price £29.95, pp240
ISBN 1857759176

The problem for the reviewer of any of the many textbooks written by the authors of this textbook is the knowledge that the standard of the text, illustrations and research is bound to be impeccable. What then of the second edition of a book that has become a standard for all practitioners. It is a compliment to say that there appears to be few fundamental changes. The first edition was a clear well-structured guide to the treatment of dental injuries, the clinical procedures were illustrated with excellent illustrations that not only enabled the practitioner to follow them but were also a demonstration of the clinical skills of the authors. In the second



edition the authors build on their success and explore the research that has led to an improvement in the prognosis of traumatised teeth.

The Andreasens have for many years been at the forefront of dental research related to traumatology and a prominent change in the second edition is the inclusion of a brief description of the processes involved in wound healing in the first chapter. It is this emphasis on the importance of facilitating the natural healing of the tissues that makes this book stand out. The treatment of soft tissue injury has been moved to become the last chapter and has been expanded to describe step by step details of wound debridement and suturing.

There have been a number of examples where further investigation has resulted in changes in the concepts of treatment described. An example of this is the shortening of the recommended length of time that root fractures are splinted from three months in the first edition to three weeks and the recurring recommendation that in all except unusual circumstances a flexible splint should be used. It is a pity that in many of the clinical photographs, most of which appeared in the first edition, rigid splints are illustrated. Chapter 8 has been almost completely rewritten to include recent research into the healing processes and the reasons for failure following avulsion. The process of resorption is described in greater detail in this edition.

The book relies on clear illustrations to make its point but the text is easy to read and guides the interested to investigate further. There are several minor typographical errors that should have been avoidable in this the electronic age.

It has been a salutary lesson in modesty to read a book written by world authorities who were still able to admit that they too have gaps in their understanding of dental trauma. I hope that in a few years time I will have the privilege of reviewing the next edition when I am sure those gaps will have closed.

B. Scheer