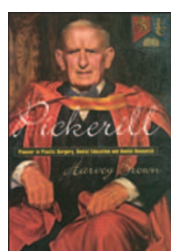


Book and CD reviews

Books, videos, CD-ROMs, DVDs and any other relevant items submitted for a review in the *BDJ* should be addressed to:

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PICKERILL: PIONEER IN PLASTIC SURGERY, DENTAL EDUCATION AND DENTAL RESEARCH



H. Brown
New Zealand: Otago
University Press
price £27.50; pp 272
ISBN 9781877372469

This fascinating biography of Henry Percy Pickerill by Harvey Brown, formerly Editor of the *New Zealand Dental Journal*, gives a detailed insight into the life and times of an extraordinary person.

Pickerill, born 1879 in Hereford, graduated BDS at Birmingham University in 1904 and completed his medical degree in 1905. His time at Birmingham identified him as a future leader as he was elected President of the Guild where he did not shirk confrontation with authority. He married Mabel Knott in 1906 whilst working in dental practice and the family emigrated to New Zealand in 1907, following an advert for the Director of the newly founded Otago Dental School where he was awarded a chair at the age of 27, thus starting an eminent academic career. A curious situation had evolved as the New Zealand Dental Association had very close management links with the School which created tensions between both organisations due to differing agendas, a problem which caused Pickerill considerable anguish and was responsible for him leaving Otago in 1927. However, whilst he was there he conducted considerable research into the causes of tooth decay and investigated preventative measures. To try and resolve the conflicts apart from being Dean he was secretary

of the Dental Association and Editor of the *NZDJ*.

In the First World War Pickerill joined the army and as a Lieutenant Colonel commanded the facial and jaw section of the Royal New Zealand Dental Corps, where he specialised in plastic surgery to rehabilitate wounded soldiers. He worked with Gillies, and reading some of the correspondence it appears that some antagonism existed between the two, indeed there is some dispute over who was the first recognised Australasian plastic surgeon. This cantankerous attitude seems to have dogged Pickerill's career – which adds a touch of spice to the narrative.

After war service he returned to Otago, but resigned as Dean and emigrated to Sydney, leaving his wife and four children, and after four years divorced Mabel and married his SHO, Cecily Clarkson. She was also a plastic surgeon and was awarded a DBE in 1977, whilst Pickerill had been awarded a CBE and an OBE. Whilst in Sydney they were ahead of their time in the way they operated on cleft lips and palates.

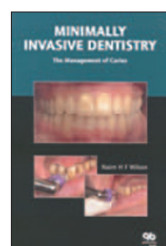
He always retained close ties with England and on his death in 1956, aged 77, his ashes were scattered on the River Wye near Hereford.

This work has been brilliantly researched with 20 pages of references, however, perhaps it delves into too much detail, so that the substantial achievements of this interesting man tend to be buried by some of the more trivial aspects within his life.

Nonetheless, this attractively produced and well illustrated book can be recommended to those interested in maxillofacial surgery, dental research, dental politics and dental history.

J. S. Robson

MINIMALLY INVASIVE DENTISTRY



N. H. F. Wilson
UK: Quintessence
price £55.00; pp 168
ISBN 032304574X

Although not a new concept, this attractively presented book is concise yet very informative on this increasingly relevant and important clinical practice. The book captures the quintessential content of the last two ConsEuro conferences held in Munich (2003) and Rome (2006). Although a multi-author pan-European book, its leading editor, Nairn Wilson, is an internationally renowned figure. He has considerable experience of teaching and research with expertise in restorative dentistry and dental materials science. The general aim of this book is to promote a rethink and adoption of current restorative practices in the management of caries and to leave outdated principles.

The 12 relatively short chapters cover a very wide range of material from caries prevention to its diagnosis and the current restorative materials in use. It also incorporates special tests, cavity preparation and the management of exposed dentine and pulp. There are chapters devoted to the 'Ageing Patient' and 'The Future' which are important inclusions.

The text is written in a clear and concise manner and takes the reader through an orderly explanation. It is well supported by the inclusion of excellent coloured photographs, graphs and tables and general diagrams. A very valuable feature is the evidence-based research findings that are outlined in virtually all the chapters

relating to that subject. This will prevent readers from having to assimilate large amounts of existing literature, which the authors themselves rightly acknowledge. The chapters summarise all new techniques and procedures in the management of caries that are not taught in detail as an undergraduate and this is where its strength lies. A simple example is the 'The diagnosis of caries', where it takes the reader from initial clinical examination methods to radiographic imaging to fluorescence methods. The overall standard of presentation and quality of content is very good.

The book is targeted at all practitioners, teachers and mainly postgraduate students. In the last decade, there have been so many changes in the field of cariology and thus this book is an apt reminder where the future will and should lie in the minimal interventional management of caries.

M. Pancholi

EARLY DETECTION AND PREVENTION OF ORAL CANCER: AN INTERACTIVE RESOURCE FOR PRIMARY CARE TEAMS (CD-ROM)



K. A. A. S. Warnakulasuriya,
A. P. S. Gould
Department of Health,
WHO Collaborating Centre
for Oral Cancer UK, and
Dental Channel Ltd

The contents of the CD are to be launched as a website: www.ocado.org
www.dental-channel.co.uk 0845 644 6842

This CD-ROM is the latest aid to detection of oral cancer. It summarises the current state of knowledge on the subject and explains how to recognise the signs and symptoms of oral malignancies, and gives advice regarding the best procedures. There were 4,400 new cases of oral cancer reported in the UK in 2002 and the number is growing. It increases with age and there is an alarming growth in numbers in young males in Western Europe, in particular the tongue. Survival rates are around 30-40%.

The CD consists of five modules and a helpful tutorial to aid navigation. The introduction covers the problem, identifying the global state with incidence rates and their increase, and the reference sec-

tion is packed with relevant information.

Recognition and treatment includes an excellent video clip of how to do a full soft tissue check of the mouth – it takes three minutes. This section has detailed and good resolution photographs of different ulcers, white and red patches, precancerous and cancerous lesions. The accompanying descriptions, both voiceover and written, ensure that recognition of lesions in the mouth should be easily identified ensuring that appropriate action can be taken.

Practical prevention is taken through screening to better advice to smokers and drinkers and encouraging good diet. All forms of NRT are discussed as well as prescribing. Contra-indications are also included and hypnotherapy and acupuncture are briefly mentioned. Also included in this module are advances in detecting and treating cancer and a whole section from Dental Protection on the medico-legal aspects of recognising and referring cancer patients and the outcomes.

The interactive case studies are very useful and fun to complete. There are four scenarios and the user is encouraged to think and ask questions that will facilitate diagnosis of conditions.

The quiz at the end is quite addictive and a good learning tool, and there is also useful information that can be downloaded. The printout of the mouth cancer referral guidelines is a useful addition to any surgery and gives instant referral criteria. There are nice touches throughout the programme. The voiceover is pleasant to listen to and at a sensible speed. Navigation is straightforward and easy to use. The content is exhaustive on the subject. There are 17 hours of verifiable CPD available on completion of the programme.

This CD-ROM should be looked at as a practice investment so that it can be accessed by the whole team. GDPs are in a unique position to detect precancerous and cancerous lesions and with the incidence of oral cancer rising steadily, early recognition and referral is essential if the success rates for survival are to increase. If used correctly this will undoubtedly contribute to improved patient survival and should be mandatory for all dental practices.

M. Bell