Book reviews

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REVIEWS

BONDING TO CERAMICS: SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCES FOR CLINICAL DENTISTRY

A. D. Bona
UK: Scion Publishing
price £100.00; pp 310
ISBN 9788536700915

The content of this book is written such that students can glean essential facts and general dental practitioners and academics can appreciate the depth of scientific evidence detailed within.

The author is a well travelled individual with credentials that include working from institutions in the United States, Britain and Brazil and an appointment as Vice President of the Academy of Dental Materials.

The book is concisely organised with its aims clearly highlighted at the outset. Each section of the book is preceded by a charming photo page and concluded with a well organised list of further reading. The chapters are well written in an appropriate font size making the text easy to read, and cover a wealth of factual knowledge, dispelling common inaccuracies. The margin contains definitions of words highlighted from the text to facilitate understanding, which is a thoughtful feature. Throughout, the book features well spaced, visually appealing diagrams and clinical photographs.

Another element of this book is the three-dimensional pictures. A set of 3D glasses are included to view scanning electron micrograph images. At first I was sceptical, however, the format works very well in depicting ceramics and dentine, complementing the text in particular for an inexperienced reader.

The author begins with a brief general history of ceramics - not just their use in dentistry - then delves into atomic structure and chemical bonding to a very detailed level reminiscent of 'A' level chemistry. The author then goes on to relate this chemistry and scientific testing to the variety of available ceramics and some clinical circumstances. The last two chapters cover bonding system techniques and accompanying commercially available ceramics, chairside step by step guides and a brief description of dentine bonding. Once again there are excellent laboratory and chairside illustrations throughout. However, the author's enthusiasm to detail such scientific evidence means some fundamental principles are difficult to grasp. Abbreviations and chemical formulas like DCA (dynamic contact angle) and HPLC water can make for arduous reading.

A visually inviting book with a super depth of scientific knowledge supported by meticulous illustrations, this title would be a valuable resource for any good library.

G. Calvert

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DENTAL MATERIALS AT A GLANCE

J. A. von Fraunhofer
UK: Wiley-Blackwell
price £19.99; pp 62
ISBN 9780813816142

This is a new book from the 'at a glance' series. The book promises to provide an up to date summary on this extensive topic supplementing lectures, formal

courses and specialist texts. Happily, like many of the 'at a glance' predecessors, it does not disappoint and successfully delivers a concise and well written introduction to the topic.

The author, Dr J. Anthony von Fraunhofer, is a former Professor and Director of Biomaterials Science in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, USA. During his career he has written numerous scientific papers and books on dental materials and materials science, making him a worthy authority in this field.

The book is aimed particularly at dental students, offering a revision aid to undergraduate dental material examinations being comprised of succinct 'bite-size' information. The text adopts the typical 'at a glance' structure with each chapter represented as an easy to read double page consisting of tables and diagrams on one side and explanatory text opposite. In total the book has 28 chapters and very comprehensive content.

At a glance the chapters in the book appear to be systematically organised and the book begins with definitions and explanations of material properties. This is then followed on by impression, casting and denture base materials. Casting and investment with discussion of precious metal and base metal alloy materials follow, giving an initially reasonable progression to the chapters. However, the book then changes direction, skipping dental ceramics, a logical next chapter, and instead covers aspects of cements. This is then incongruously superseded by chapters on direct restorative materials and adhesion. The book then returns to indirect restorative materials providing several useful chapters on dental ceramics. Valuable chapters on endodontic and