orthodontic materials are then discussed, followed on surprisingly by grinding, polishing and finishing restorations, a chapter more suitably placed after the direct restorative materials. This is succeeded by a rather brief consideration of adverse reactions, which disappointingly has little reference to clinical manifestations. The book is finally concluded with informative chapters on the structures and properties of the dental hard tissues and bone, which I feel may have been a more sensible introduction to the compendium.

Overall I believe this is an ideal revision tool for the undergraduate dental student providing a foundation of information to the vast subject of dental materials. At times the details offered are brief with limited reference to clinical situations, which would have been beneficial. Nevertheless the book does not claim to be exhaustive and encourages further detailed reading.

H. Cottom

DOING ANYTHING AFTER WORK? ... WHAT ABOUT RETIREMENT?

P. Bramley (ed)

UK: Hucklow Publishing

price £8.50; pp 96

ISBN 9780199543588

This book is a collection of loosely connected essays and verses written by 40 individuals, mainly from the Hope Valley Probus Club near Sheffield, who were invited to share their experiences of ageing and retirement. Their pieces are interspersed with excellent photographs and wonderful aphorisms and quotations related to the third age. The book is a very professional publication comprising some 96 pages and a fine example of a community activity. It has been written, compiled, designed and produced by 'those of a certain age' living in the Hope Valley and any profits will be donated to charity.

The compiler and editor is Professor Sir Paul Bramley who is remembered as the Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery at the Royal College of Surgeons of England from 1980-83 and the President of the BDA in 1988. By his own admission Paul Bramley is now half way through his ninetieth decade and this book is a clear demonstration that work and endeavour is not restricted to the traditional 40 years.

Moving into retirement can be difficult especially if accompanied by some of the disadvantages of ageing. Reading this book, and learning from those who have passed this milestone, is one way to prepare for the emotional and physical changes that occur. Some of the contributions bring a tear to the eye, others bring a smile. All were interesting and many were educational. They are written from the heart in a variety of styles. Each one has a story to tell with some being easier to read than others.

Dame Joan Bakewell has written a very complimentary foreword in which she writes, 'it always lifts my heart to hear of older people taking the initiative and passing on their experience to others. This book does that and deserves the success I am sure it will get'.

I agree with her. This is a charming book that will be of particular interest to those who are approaching retirement or those who have already retired. It is, perhaps, rather like those large boxes of expensive assorted chocolates. Right for dipping into from time to time; each confection to be tasted and savoured. Some may be a little bitter, others much sweeter, but all have a different texture and flavour. However, this flawed comparison collapses when one realises that this book can be read and re-read by anyone who sees it lying on the coffee table or waiting room table.

Copies of this book can be obtained online from www.whataboutretirement.co.uk for £8.50 with reductions for bulk orders.

J. M. G. Hunt

ORAL COMPLICATIONS OF CANCER AND ITS MANAGEMENT

A. N. Davies, J. B. Epstein (eds)

UK: Oxford University Press

price £49.95; pp 324

ISBN 9780199543588

This is a beautifully written and illustrated hardback from Oxford University Press. The title does not do justice to describing the extensive content detailed in this 312 page text. Numerous international authors have collated information from their various specialities to provide 30 comprehensive chapters. These

include: common oral conditions, orofacial pain, halitosis, osteoradionecrosis, trismus, salivary gland dysfunction, oral mucositis, complications of chemotherapy and much more. Each subject is not only related to the oral cancer patient, but differential diagnoses are also discussed. In addition there are chapters addressing the needs of specific groups of patient, for example paediatric patients and those patients with advanced cancer. The health economic impact of oral complications is also detailed.

The chapters included are well structured and easy to read. Information is, wherever possible, evidence-based, and associated reference material is also included. A consistent layout is used throughout the book including an introduction, definitions, epidemiology, the aetiology, clinical features, investigations and relevant references as appropriate. The tables provided throughout the book display information concisely and are ideal for quick reference. The authors also use clinical photographs to describe procedures, demonstrate normal anatomy and exhibit pathology. Images of radiographic findings are also included where appropriate and other illustrations help to improve understanding and hold the reader's interest.

This unique book is aimed to provide a reference aid for 'all healthcare professionals involved in the care of patients with cancer'. As one of the only texts devoted to oral conditions affecting the cancer patient, it is likely to become an essential read for the large multidisciplinary team involved in the management of the cancer patient. I believe due to the wide range of information detailed in this book it will appeal to both junior and senior staff, and feel it is an excellent text for undergraduate students. With reference to students in particular, the chapters detailing normal anatomy, common oral conditions and the tables provided, for example 'complications of salivary gland dysfunction' and 'causes of halitosis', would act as useful and concise revision aids.

In summary this is an interesting and well presented text which includes something to appeal to all members of our profession.

S. Williams