Book reviews

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REVIEWS

THE FLUORIDE WARS: HOW A MODEST PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURE BECAME AMERICA'S LONGEST-RUNNING POLITICAL MELODRAMA

R. Allan Freeze, J. H. Lehr
UK: Wiley
price £26.95; pp 383
ISBN 9780470448335

This was written by two experts in the water supply industry in America. The back cover describes this book as giving 'a detailed social history of the fluoridation debate in America'. The book meanders through this, covering topics such as the history and political aspects of fluoridation in America, associated health issues with fluoride and the link between fluoride and dental disease. It gives a balanced viewpoint on fluoridation throughout.

This book has a striking and colourful cover, but unfortunately this is where any colour ends. Only one black and white illustration can be found amongst the text, and there are a small number of tables, resulting in a demanding read.

There is no flow to the book's structure, and no link between consecutive chapters. The details of the structure of teeth and fluoride are found in the middle of the book sandwiched between two chapters on the possible health complications of fluoride. The contents page includes page numbers for the individual subheadings within a chapter, but for these sections to be coherent a whole chapter needs to be read. The chapter titles and subheadings appear a little eccentric

at first glance, but do eventually make sense upon reading.

This book has been written by non-dentists, which is evident in the chapter titled 'Look Ma. No cavities: Fluoride and Teeth' which contains inaccuracies regarding dental theory. However, each chapter is heavily referenced suggesting a well researched book.

In summary, this book was interesting although the large sections of text were at times difficult to read. It was only after a number of chapters had been read that a full appreciation of the book materialised. This text is described as a detailed history but in places specific points were laboured and over-emphasised. This book is definitely not a dental reference book but a detailed read for people with a specialist interest in the history of fluoridation and its social impact.

R. Bussell

THE ART OF COMPUTER-GUIDED IMPLANTOLOGY

P. Tardieu, A. Rosenfeld
UK: Quintessence
price £105.00; pp 240
ISBN 9780867154771

This book is an essential buy for anyone looking to delve into the sometimes enigmatic practice of implant placement, or indeed a current implantologist wanting to update their knowledge of the most contemporary techniques and those technologies now available. This book epitomises current 'best practice' in implantology, giving a stepwise account of how to achieve optimal and consistent aesthetic and functional results.

The introduction of computed tomography in treatment planning has revolutionised the practice of implant placement. Although many clinicians still rely heavily on analogue radiographic techniques, this book discusses the inherent bifunctional nature of CT scanning, where the interface between planning the surgical procedure and actually placing the implant can be overcome in a quasi-CAD-CAM inter-relationship.

The authors stress the importance of a multi-disciplinary approach throughout, with the final prosthesis being at the epicentre of each clinical stage. They document the importance of a surgical guide in transferring information throughout the course of treatment, as traditionally limited use of guides have restricted the vast efficacy of computed tomography.

The textbook is effectively a recipe book for implantologists, with an ordered and cumulative structure guiding the practitioner through each stage; from diagnosis, to treatment planning, creating a surgical guide to placing the implants, while incorporating the design of the final restoration at each stage.

The text asserts that incorporating computer-guided treatment into surgical practice confers many benefits, both for the patient and practitioner, including more accurate placement, improved patient comfort, efficient prosthetic fabrication and enhanced aesthetics. Interestingly, they believe that utilising CT scanning actually reduces expense for the practitioner, by minimising lab costs.

The book is well illustrated, complementing the surprisingly explicable yet comprehensive text. It is referenced widely with clinical examples to dem-