Book reviews

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REVIEWS

ILLUSTRATED DENTAL EMBRYOLOGY, HISTOLOGY, AND ANATOMY, 3RD EDITION

M. Bath-Balogh,
M. J. Fehrenbach

UK: Elsevier

price £47.99; pp 344

ISBN 9781437717303

This is the third embodiment of the core textbook for students. This feature-packed version contains 432 pages and over 800 high quality colour illustrations and photographs. The aim of the book is to provide its reader with an extensive background into the three subjects of its title, for the purposes of examinations or background reading.

Of note the most considerable addition from the second edition is the update of the online resource, the Evolve website. The resource is easy to navigate and although not exhaustive in its content does provide PowerPoint presentations, quizzes, case studies, visual identification exercises and further reading on each unit. Other additions include a list of the 'new terms' at the beginning of each chapter with a pronunciation guide accompanying them; these new terms are subsequently highlighted in blue the first time they appear within the chapter. Minor content updates have also been made on several topics including caries risk and periodontal disease.

The layout of the book follows the successful four-unit formula of the previous editions. Unit I, a review of dental structures, is a basic recap of soft and hard tissue landmarks. Unit II details dental embryology and systematically

discusses the process of development, with the main bulk of the chapter focused on tooth development. Unit III contains dental histology; again the authors have used a pragmatic approach to the content, beginning with an overview, followed by basic tissues and continuing on to discuss head and neck with the focus on dental structures. The final unit, dental anatomy, details all the dentition, with each tooth viewed from nine planes, including cross sectional views.

The beginning of each chapter starts with a chapter outline, the learning objectives and the new key terms being introduced. Within each chapter there are clinical and developmental summary boxes, which discuss the topic mentioned and its relevance, to aid the reader in application of the information.

Overall I much enjoyed the book. Its target audience is mainly students; however, the ease of read and clarity of discussions makes it a reference source for clinicians as well. Although not a great deal has changed from the previous version, the authors' revisions have made the book a more dynamic resource, cementing it as an essential book for student.

F. Ahmed

CHALLENGING NATURE: WAX-UP TECHNIQUES IN AESTHETICS AND FUNCTIONAL OCCLUSION

P. Kano

UK: Quintessence

price £180.00; pp 352

ISBN 9781850972037

Paulo Kano, who is clearly a master technician, depicts his revolutionary

functional wax up sequence. This eight chaptered book is coherent and well structured. It aims to take the reader on the journey involved in wax up sequences, from a functional and technical perspective. Each chapter smoothly builds and applies the technical knowledge of the last. Chapters are on nomenclature, morphology, wax handling and application, functional wax-up sequences for maxillary and/or mandibular dentition, clinical cases and finally adhesive cementation.

This text is somewhat economical with prose, however, the 371 pages of phenomenally detailed large photographs meticulously document the steps involved in waxing up premolars and molars. The balance between incorporating intricate morphology whilst still respecting the rules of functional occlusion is well kept but not explored.

The 800 images are the spirit of the book. The majority of the chapters simply portray lavish images. In one such chapter the author spends 115 figures demonstrating his technique for waxing up mandibular posterior dentition, often full or half page figures, each matched with a clear, concise caption. This could be deemed excessive. However, considering that the very purpose of Kano's book is to showcase his craft, such attention to detail is essential. Within minutes, as a reader, you become attuned to every stroke of his carving knife. Skills that have clearly taken decades to perfect seem attainable, as every stage is easily digestible.

Initially one may incorrectly perceive this text to be solely for technicians, as approximately two thirds of it is weighted towards only build-up