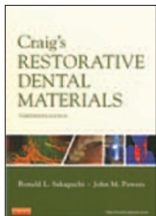


computer graphics are quite basic, the use of clearly annotated pictures along with images of the skull and corresponding clinical photographs are excellent.

Overall, this will be a useful learning and revision tool for its target audience of dental students and medical students required to work in areas where a dentist is not available. It would also benefit dental practitioners who wish to test their knowledge in this area but further texts should be consulted to supplement the reader's understanding of exodontia.

E. Sherwin

CRAIG'S RESTORATIVE DENTAL MATERIALS, 13TH EDITION



R. L. Sakaguchi, J. M. Powers
Elsevier
price £59.99; pp 416
ISBN 9780323081085

Dental materials was a subject that filled me with dread as an undergraduate but it's impossible to deny its daily relevance in our chosen careers. This text has made a subject that many of us struggle to grasp not only manageable but dare I say...enjoyable.

The thirteenth edition of this informative classic textbook proved to be a comprehensive resource written to aid understanding of the scientific basis of the dental materials we use on a daily basis as clinicians. This edition has been extensively rewritten since it was first published in 1960 in order to include recent advances in dental biomaterial science to remain relevant to current dental practice. As a result the book is of interest to clinicians, biomaterial scientists and engineers alike.

In addition to the concise and well-written textbook there is an accompanying website which provides additional illustrations, graphics and mind-maps, supplementing the chapters of the text.

The 16 chapters of this book are logically set out and are divided into manageable sections. The first seven chapters cover the background of dental material science, discussing the role of dental materials, the oral environment, design criteria, testing of materials, biocompatibility and the broad classes of

biomaterial of interest in dentistry. The subsequent chapters explore different classes of relevant biomaterials in finer detail. The scientific basis of materials such as composite, ceramics, metal alloys, impression mediums and adhesives are addressed in a manner that is both informative and engaging. The fourteenth chapter in this text is brand new to this edition and explores digital imaging and processing techniques and the materials essential for this method.

A strength of this text book is that it not only provides scientific information in isolation but also explores the application of these materials and discusses relevant clinical studies keeping the evidence-based nature of dental treatment at the fore. Chapters on tissue engineering and dental implants highlight the innovative nature of dental material science and how it is changing modern dental practice.

I feel this book is of particular merit, as it manages to impart the fundamental knowledge required to develop a solid understanding of dental material science whilst also addressing more challenging concepts. Coloured illustrations and photographs provided throughout this book complement the text and highlight key points made throughout the chapter.

Personally I would recommend the use of this book as not only an adjunct to dental education but as a revision aid. Following each chapter the book provides test questions which assess your ability to apply your knowledge of dental material science in a clinical setting, making it extremely relevant for dental students and clinicians alike. A recommended read.

V. Greig

ADVANCING ORAL HEALTH IN AMERICA



Institute of Medicine of the National Academies
The National Academies Press
price £42.00; pp 268
ISBN 9780309186308

This text is a concise report that aims to inform the US government and influence policy change. It is of relevance to clinicians interested in public health

measures and is an effective introduction to the American healthcare model for any reader.

Although the NHS may seem a world apart from the insurance driven system in the United States, the challenges we face are similar. This is a factual account of an effort to provide dental treatment to the most disadvantaged and battle the perceived divide between general health and oral health.

The book is broadly divided into five sections: introduction; oral health and overall health and wellbeing; the oral health care system; HHS and oral health; and a new oral health initiative.

The first chapter introduces the aims of this report and defines its place within the current body of literature. In the following sections it discusses oral health provision within a health service that regards dentistry as a discipline completely separate to medicine. The facts and figures are illustrated with charts and diagrams making the information easy to digest, shedding light on the extent of oral disease experienced by different communities.

The next chapter offers an overview of preventative measures and discusses the many challenges to bringing about change. Accounting for the finance, organisation, education and regulation of the dental workforce in America, it gives a clear outline of where dental services are being provided.

Finally the history of government strategies and the role of different organisations who contribute to oral health are described. A chart of proposed initiatives, (most of them failed to receive funding), demonstrates the difficulty in financing schemes and the vagaries of political support. The book concludes with a recommendation for a centralised plan to improve oral health, echoing the tenets of clinical governance.

It is well researched, written and referenced. I consider this a comprehensive introduction to the provision of dental services in the United States. For readers in the UK there is little content directly applicable to practice and while it contains a wealth of information it informs rather than engages the reader.

L. Murphy