Book reviews

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FUNDAMENTALS OF FIXED PROSTHODONTICS, FOURTH EDITION

H. T. Shillingburg (ed)
UK: Quintessence
price £88.00; pp 584
ISBN 9780867154757

Fixed prosthodontics can be a mine-field for dental practitioners who must ensure that the most suitable restoration is placed for aesthetic and functional purposes and most importantly, oral health for our patients is maintained. This is a new edition of a well-known text by Schillingburg, which includes up-to-date techniques and materials that are now routinely used in dental practice.

This 584 page book is aimed at dentists of all levels of experience from undergraduate and postgraduate to general dental practitioners. This text covers all disciplines in fixed prosthodontics from occlusion to bridge design to construction of a veneer in a laboratory.

The chapters are concise and in a logical order. The initial chapters discuss occlusion in detail with numerous illustrations on inter-occlusal records and facebows. The subsequent chapters demonstrate all preparations for intra- and extra-coronal restorations. At the start of each different preparation, the authors have written an armamentarium, which allows the reader to check their equipment prior to attempting these preparations. This book also covers dental materials and the laboratory side of fixed prosthodontics, which are not covered in great detail at an undergraduate level. However, some of the content is more suited to a postgraduate

level including electrosurgery, orthodontic extrusion of a tooth for restorative purposes and definitive restorations following a hemisection.

The text wouldn't be complete without discussing implant dentistry. The final chapters discuss the basics in implant assessment, placement and restoration. However, if the reader is placing and restoring vast quantities of implants, I would recommend a more specialist text.

The size of the book initially seemed quite daunting but there are high numbers of very clear diagrams to accompany the text. I found these very useful as they demonstrate the tooth preparations clearly step by step, which can sometimes be difficult to visualise mentally. I particularly liked the chapter on replacing a single tooth or multi-tooth spaces because the partial fixed denture (bridge) designs were illustrated clearly with any considerations clearly marked such as location in the oral cavity, abutment crown: root ratio and suitability for implant placement.

Personally, I think this book is a great resource into fixed prosthodontics for dentists of all levels of experience and a definite must read text for undergraduate students.

K. J. Donaldson

THE TOOTHWRIGHTS' TALE: A HISTORY OF DENTISTRY IN THE ROYAL NAVY 1964-1995

E. J. Grant
UK: Chaplin Books
price £25.00; pp 300
ISBN 9780956559593

This is the second volume of *A history of dentistry in the Royal Navy*. The first

volume was written by Nick Daws and John Holland and records the History from 1905 until 1964. Dental officers in the Royal Navy are often addressed as the 'Toothwright' or 'Toothie' by their colleagues and peers and hence the title of this book. This book is a record of the history of the Royal Navy Dental Services (RNDS) and a collection of the memories and experiences of many people who served in it.

This book starts 18 years after the end of World War II and takes the reader through the Cold War, Falklands War and past the Gulf War. It is immediately apparent that the author has done a tremendous amount of research into the existing records and archives of any significant events and changes within the RNDS and of any associated dental surgeons, officers and other naval staff. Each of the ten chapters in the book focuses on a period of time during which these events occurred, against the backdrop of the complications in political changes, economic difficulties, and MoD and healthcare reform and review. Each chapter closely follows high ranking surgeons and a number of officers. The roles they played within the RNDS and the Royal Navy are described and personal accounts from their diaries are included, some of which are quite humorous. Not only did the dental officers, surgeons and hygienists deliver dental care to maintain good oral health in naval and marine officers, but when they were on active duty, they also carried out vital first aid procedures for casualties at the front line.

This book is a refreshing read: it is rather like a history lesson or a documentary of naval dentistry and the