Book reviews

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DENTIST ON THE WARD, 3RD EDITION

A. Sadler, L. Cheng
Sorejaw
price £30.00; pp 158
ISBN 9780956937728

This book is based on the famous 'Dentist on the ward' course. Designed and set up by Andrew Sadler in an attempt to better prepare maxillofacial senior house officers (now DF2s) before starting their first job.

However, don't stop reading now if you're a DF1 or an undergraduate. The book's opening chapters provide advice and guidance for those interested in a career in maxillofacial surgery. Even if this is not something you are considering, those wishing to pursue a career in a hospital setting should take note too. The book has been developed from the lecture handouts and is presented in a clear, modern format. In fact I was so captivated that I read this book over a weekend! It covers all key areas and procedures that DF2 dentists are expected to know and do. This ranges from when to request blood tests, to venepuncture itself. There are step-by-step colour photographs that allow you to see how to do many hospital-based procedures. These range from the correct hand washing technique to how to scrub and gown in theatre.

I also particularly liked the section on how to write clinical notes regarding the more medical side of a DF2 job. In between all this excellent practical advice, there are also sections of interest. One of these includes the photographs of commonly used maxillofacial

instruments. Beside them it explains when the instrument would be used, but it also gives you their history. So if, like me, you have wondered who Warwick James was then wonder no more.

The book gives a flavour of the actual course, and if you want the full hands on experience it is well worthwhile enrolling online. It is held annually and is comprised of lectures in combination with practical sessions. The practical sessions cover medical examinations, closing lacerations in layers, prescribing on hospital drug charts to name a few activities. The lectures are excellent and help with understanding fluid prescribing and hospital cross infection. The cost of the course also includes the book.

Maybe this book is meant to ease the minds of those waiting to start their DF2 jobs. If this is its aim then it certainly worked for me, and it has proved a good reference book well into the start of my new job. I would strongly recommend it for any dentist considering working in a hospital for the first time.

C. Porter

BASIC GUIDE TO MEDICAL EMERGENCIES IN THE DENTAL PRACTICE

P. Jevon
Wiley-Blackwell
price £26.95; pp 216
ISBN 9781405197847

The importance of being able to manage medical emergencies by the dental team has been a well-accepted principle for some time. The emphasis on this is especially notable by the General

Dental Council's inclusion of medical emergencies within core CPD requirements.

The book starts by revising the principles of how to recognise the sick patient and on through to more complex issues such as resuscitation. Medical emergencies are helpfully categorised into chapters relating to the body system they affect. I found that each chapter supplied a good depth of information on the physiological causes of the emergency prior to providing a detailed explanation of how to manage such a situation.

The book is easy to read as much of the information is explained clearly using tables, flow charts and bullet points that prevent the reader becoming overwhelmed with information.

Throughout, the author consistently provides clear references to up to date literature to back up their advice. This also shows the reader easily where they can access more information if desired.

Clear, detailed photographs are used extensively to show how to use equipment and perform manual tasks. More complex procedures are demonstrated with step-by-step images. Whilst no replacement for hands-on sessions, they serve to remind the reader of prior learning.

A chapter that I found of particular interest was one about professional and legal issues. It focuses on the dental practitioner's accountability with regard to the patient, society in general, the employer and the General Dental Council. This provides a lot of food for thought with regard to patient consent and best practice.

I enjoyed reading the book and found it to be detailed and clear in its