Book reviews

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AN INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODONTICS, 4TH EDITION

L. Mitchell
Oxford University Press
price £46.99; pp 336
ISBN 9780199594719

This year, 2013, sees the publication of the latest edition of *An introduction to orthodontics* by Laura Mitchell. This book has long been the favoured orthodontic text for undergraduate dental students and the newly updated fourth edition retains all the features that have made this book so popular in the past.

The book consists of 23 chapters, each of which are well indexed and laid out making it easy for the reader to locate information quickly. Every chapter concludes with a 'key points' box that helps to reinforce the main principles that have been covered in the preceding chapter. In addition to this the sources and further reading sections in each chapter have been updated in this latest edition to include contemporary references where relevant.

This book equips the reader with a strong fundamental foundation in the subject. The chapters follow a methodical sequence and are concise, whilst still imparting a wealth of information that will form a solid core of orthodontic knowledge for the reader. The text is broken up by ample illustrations, diagrams and case studies throughout, making it easy to follow the concepts that are being presented in the book and making the book easily readable.

Whilst it's fair to say that *An introduction to orthodontics* hasn't been radically overhauled since its previous edition, the

chapter on anchorage planning has been rewritten entirely and it deals with the tricky subject in terms that are likely to be better grasped by the novice orthodontist. Cephalometrics and cephalometric analysis are particularly well explained in chapter six.

It's not the purpose or intention of this book to deal with fixed appliance treatment in great detail. However, the chapter on fixed appliances does give a good overview and understanding of their role in modern orthodontic treatment.

In conclusion *An introduction to orthodontics* is a superb text, which I would have no hesitation in recommending to anyone with an interest in orthodontics. It is an ideal text for dental students and trainee orthodontic therapists, while it will also undoubtedly prove to be useful for individuals at the beginning of their specialist training in orthodontics.

J. O'Donovan

A CLINICAL GUIDE TO APPLIED DENTAL MATERIALS

S. J. Bonsor, G. J. Pearson
Churchill Livingstone
price £44.99; pp 464
ISBN 9780702031588

This book is written by a refreshing combination of a practising dentist with teaching experience and an academic with clinical experience. It places strong emphasis on the practical usage of dental materials. This excellent dental materials book is indispensable to anyone who is practising any aspect of restorative dentistry; be it a student who wants to learn and use the materials for the first time or an experienced

clinician due to this book's relevance to day-to-day clinical dental practice. The book describes how to properly select any given material for any situation, how to use materials to best effect, and when and how not to use them.

The one thing that makes this book distinct is the numerous coloured boxes with practical hints and tips. The boxes with a 'tick' highlight good practice tips. The boxes with an 'exclamation mark' suggest precautions to be taken while using a material.

With familiar trade names and pictures used throughout the text it is easy for readers in the EU to relate the information to their everyday practice.

All sections are colour coded and the text is richly illustrated with plenty of colour photographs, artworks and tables to demonstrate various materials and techniques.

The first section covers general principles common to many materials, their handling and behaviour. The second section covers commonly used restorative materials including endodontics. The third section covers materials used for temporisation, impression taking and occlusal registration. The fourth section covers a wide range of other materials used in dental clinics including those for prevention, periodontics, oral surgery, implants and biomaterials. There is a separate chapter on dental bleaching systems and on cutting instruments. The last section covers laboratory materials that a practitioner needs to be familiar with to prescribe effectively and to discuss the cases with technicians.

This book will be a perfect companion for undergraduate students and postgraduate students preparing for