

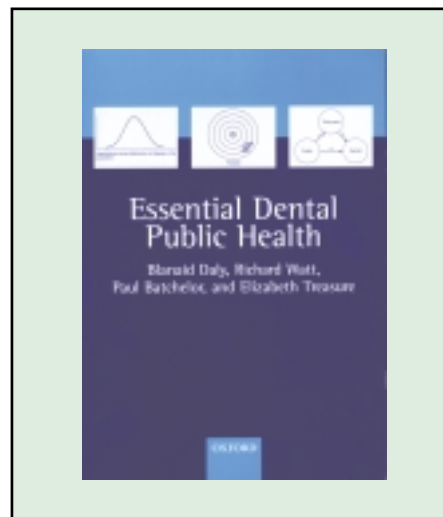
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BOOK REVIEW

Essential Dental Public Health. Blanaid Daly, Richard Watt, Paul Batchelor and Elizabeth Treasure. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2002 (£24.95). ISBN 0-19-262974-3

This book is a valuable addition to the bookshelf for anyone interested in dentistry beyond what happens directly between dentist and patient. In their preface, the authors are overly modest and describe their book as intended primarily for undergraduate dental students, though I feel it would benefit postgraduate students, researchers and teachers of the discipline.

The book covers a wide range of topics within public health and public health as applied to dentistry. As such, it presents ideas usually confined to generic public health texts and makes an excellent text on which to base an undergraduate curriculum. To this basic



strength is added the excellent idea of regular discussion points, summaries and learning outcomes for each chapter, again making light work for busy students (and their teachers!). A lot of trouble has been taken to attribute several well-known concepts that are often quoted by others but matched with a reference, including a fascinating

who's who in development of public health theory and practice and some excellent diagrams. This makes the book incredibly useful to researchers and ensures certain pages will be well thumbed. I personally wonder whether evidence-based dentistry and critical appraisal of the literature actually belong in this book, since I see these as generic skills in the clinical sciences. That said, the former is well set into the context of public health and it is quite rightly impossible to draw a precise line dividing clinical and public health topics. Prevention is another topic that should permeate dentistry rather than be owned by any particular group.

A concise summary of dental public health is never an easy thing to produce and the authors are to be congratulated for a well-constructed and readable book.

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ABSTRACT

STICK WITH THE NEW, OR STICK WITH THE OLD?

Tooth-Coloured Post Systems: A Review. A.J.E. Qualtrough and F. Mannocci. *Operative Dentistry* 2003; 1: 86–91.

For over 120 years, when faced with the need for a post-retained crown, the vast majority of dentists in Great Britain have used gold. Recently, however, there has been considerable interest in tooth-coloured post systems. These have several

advantages over metal posts: they are aesthetic, must be bonded to tooth tissue, have a modulus of elasticity similar to dentine and appear to perform well in clinical studies. How does the busy practitioner decide whether or not these should be included in their clinical armamentarium?

This comprehensive review sets out the criteria for the successful post, and addresses how these criteria are satisfied by the tooth-coloured systems. The paper is comprehensively referenced for the student to take the subject to greater depth, but the review would be

valuable reading for busy dentists contemplating a change in clinical practice. The review suggests that the use of direct adhesive core build-up maximizes retention and conserves tooth tissue.

Briefly, the authors conclude that carbon fibre posts have generally been superceded by quartz, silica and glass fibre-reinforced materials. These may be used in narrower cross-section than gold, and also no longer require parallel-sided preparation. A shorter, tapered design, far more in harmony with the canal morphology, may be acceptable.

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