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## Book Review

**Paediatric Dentistry** 3rd edn. By RR Welbury, MS Duggal and MT Hosey, eds. Oxford: Oxford Medical Publications, 2005 (443pp. p/b, £39.95). ISBN 978-0-19-8565833.

This softback, full-colour textbook has now reached its third edition and has proven to be an invaluable reference work to both the undergraduate and qualified dentist. Since the book's launch in 1997, 4,500 copies have been sold, and it is currently available in several countries worldwide.

Initially written with the undergraduate dental student in mind, *Paediatric Dentistry* has evolved over the years into a well-balanced, comprehensive text; equally embraced by general practitioners and those with a special interest alike.

Originally edited by Professor Richard R. Welbury, *Paediatric Dentistry* was intended to 'draw together all the different aspects of paediatric dentistry'. Moreover, this latest edition welcomes the addition of Professor Monty Duggal and Dr Marie-Thérèse Hosey as co-editors, thus broadening the equilibrium of the book. It is the editors' intention to 'maintain a contemporary outlook and publish changes in techniques and philosophies as soon as they have an evidence base' (Prof. RR Welbury, January 2005); these words are faithfully reflected throughout the pages of this publication.

Cover-to-cover, *Paediatric Dentistry* contains over 550 photographs, of which over

350 are high-quality colour images. In addition, the book contains over 60 tables and diagrams to complement the thoughtfully presented text. There are 23 contributors to the chapters contained within this third edition, many of whom are new to the book, though all are significant individuals in the specialty or their related disciplines. This array of editors and contributors from both the UK and overseas, dental schools and general practice do not 'fragment' this reference book, but conversely integrate its content and give it a unique richness through its clinical experience.

Readers familiar with the earlier editions of *Paediatric Dentistry* will recognize that previous successful attributes have been maintained in the latest publication. Key learning points, bullet points and sub-headed paragraphs make the text not only reader-friendly, but its content very accessible. Furthermore, each chapter concludes with a summary of its pertinent points and lists further reading for the topic.

The change of some contributors has brought with it further development of each chapter; pre-existing content has not however been discarded, but built upon. Chapter 3 (formerly 'History, examination and treatment planning') now includes risk assessment for targeting resources. The previous chapter 7 ('Operative treatment of dental caries') has been separated into chapters on the operative treatment of the deciduous and permanent dentitions. The 2nd edition's

chapter 8 on 'Endodontics' has been integrated into the new trauma and operative chapters.

In short, *Paediatric Dentistry* is an invaluable resource for both the undergraduate and postgraduate dental clinician. It possesses a great wealth of information; thoughtfully constructed for accessibility and clarity. It satisfies its intended objective, and is favourably priced. I am a strong advocate of this textbook, and thoroughly recommend it to both generalists and specialists.

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