surgical approach and postoperative care and rehabilitation clearly described. It is up to the usual high standards of AO publishing. Any user who undertakes the demanding ESIN technique should have access to it via the operating theatre or library, although of course surgeons undertaking this technique should be trained properly and merely use it for reference.

In summary, this is likely to become the standard textbook for ESIN nailing technique, which has recently gained popularity in the paediatric population. It is a demanding technique with many potential complications and this textbook should help surgeons to avoid most of these.

Birmingham PLAB Course Teaching DVD For PLAB 2 OSCE

Series 1: Surgical and Orthopaedic Examinations

Series 2: Medical Examinations

Series 3: Resuscitation and Manikins

EXTENT P/H	DVD
PRICE/ISBN	£24.95 each, 185315637X, 1853156426, 1853156477
PUBLISHER	RSM (London), 2005
REVIEWER	Marc Patterson
STAR RATING	****

The Birmingham PLAB course has produced three DVDs to help prepare international graduates sitting the part II examination (OSCE). The first covers surgery and orthopaedics, the second medicine and the third resuscitation and manikins.

Each DVD is introduced by a faculty member of the Birmingham course who demonstrates one way of undertaking each OSCE station in 5 min. There is no detailed description of the structure of the examination but the important aspects of its style are covered. The introduction to each DVD repeats the recommended approach, emphasising greeting, rapport, consent, privacy and chaperones. Politeness, explanation to the patients, avoidance of discomfort and the importance of giving a running commentary to the examiners are all included.

The surgical section (series I) covers examination of the abdomen, neck, peripheral vascular system, diabetic foot, hip, knee, spine, shoulder and hand. The medical section (series II) emphasises effective communication skills, clear instruction and professional presentation. Demonstration of appropriate clinical signs in a 5-min OSCE is also explained. Systems covered include cardiovascular, respiratory, neurological and fundoscopy. Series III covers resuscitation and manikins such as blood sampling, catheterisation, breast and rectal examination.

The DVDs are designed for those candidates sitting Part II PLAB. It is assumed that they are familiar with the structure of the examination as a whole and specifically cover only the OSCE side of it. The style is very definitely 'this is the way to do it', but the faculty members do suggest that the candidate's personal style can be added to present a way of approaching the examination with which the candidate is comfortable while also being looked on favourably by the examiners.

The standard of presentation is excellent and the technical quality of the discs, first class. International graduates will definitely find them a very helpful adjunct to their preparation for PLAB. A full knowledge of the structure of the examination, careful revision of the medical syllabus and study of the necessary style as demonstrated in these DVDs should give the candidate as good a chance of success as possible. If all examination candidates examined patients in the professional manner shown by the faculty members, a few more national graduates might also pass their own local examinations!

Oxford Handbook of Clinical Dentistry, 4th edn

DAVID A MITCHELL, LAURA MITCHELL, PAUL BRUNTON

EXTENT P/H	824 p, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£22.95, 9780198529200
PUBLISHER	Oxford University Press (Oxford), 2005
REVIEWER	John Lowry
STAR RATING	*****

In 1991, the *Oxford Handbook of Clinical Dentistry* first saw the light of day as the authors' 'baby'. In subsequent editions, it has progressively matured through life as a toddler and robust child. Now 15 years later as a teenager, it is exploring new avenues including web-based learning. Initially, it was developed as the logical extension for dentistry of the ubiquitous *Oxford Handbook of Clinical Medicine* (often dubbed 'the cheese and onion' because of its characteristic green and yellow cover) or sister-*Oxford Handbook of Clinical Specialties*, which was to be aimed mainly at the dental student and early postgraduate. Clearly, over the years, its value for a far wider audience has become well recognised.

The traditional Oxford handbook format of 180 x 98 mm pages between the characteristic flexible and robust plastic covers has been faithfully reproduced once again with an attractive pink, yellow and blue colour scheme. This new edition, however, has been extended to 18 chapters. There has been a major restructuring with new material including caries risk assessment, new preparation techniques and the

latest developments in paediatric dentistry, with new restorative approaches as well as behaviour management, dietary advice and care of the handicapped patient.

After an introductory chapter on history and examination, the main dentally based specialties and subspecialties are covered sequentially before moving on to maxillofacial surgery. There is also a succinct chapter on syndromes of the head and neck. The section on medicine relevant to dentistry includes useful advice about technical procedures for in-patients such as venepuncture, catheterisation and the management of common postoperative problems. A helpful chapter on therapeutics leads logically into analgesia, anaesthesia and sedation and, in a similar way, a law and ethics chapter links into practice management.

There are now a series of colour plates covering topics such as oral mucosal lesions and other areas of oral pathology, imaging and the interpretation of restorative techniques. These for some reason are collected together in the middle of a section on denture problems and complaints, in a chapter entitled 'Prosthetics and Gerontology'. Nevertheless, they have appropriate captions and are key-referenced in the text of the relevant chapters. The authors have once again endeavoured to ensure that the contents are user-friendly and have been most successful with the inclusion of 26 pages of useful information and addresses, a section on symbols and abbreviations as well as blank pages for notes and a comprehensive index.

This is a most valuable handbook with a wide range of appeal, from the undergraduate and those preparing for a range of postgraduate dental examinations through to trainers and other senior colleagues who need to bring themselves up-to-date with innovations outside their main field of practice.

Thyroid Cancer: A Comprehensive Guide to Clinical Management, 2nd edn

LEONARD WARTOFSKY, DOUGLAS VAN NOSTRAND

EXTENT P/H	736 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£115.00, 1588294625
PUBLISHER	Humana (New Jersey), 2005
REVIEWER	John Watkinson
STAR RATING	****

This is the second edition of an outstanding textbook edited by Leonard Wartofsky and Douglas Van Nostrand. The editors are to be congratulated on bringing together a remarkable array of multidisciplinary authors, who cover every topic pertaining to the clinical management of thyroid cancer. The book is divided into 11 parts. Parts one, two and three cover general considerations as well as the thyroid

nodule, while parts four and five address well-differentiated thyroid cancer. The last six parts cover variants of thyroid cancer and undifferentiated tumours before looking at new frontiers and future directions as well as resources for patients with thyroid cancer.

There are outstanding chapters on molecular biology, the staging of thyroid cancer, and recombinant TSH. Imaging of the thyroid is well covered as is the management of the solitary thyroid nodule and I particularly enjoyed the chapter on thyroid cancer in children and adolescents. As is to be expected from a book of this size, the majority of the management discussions revolve around differentiated thyroid cancer, which is extensively covered although there could have been a little more on surgery with particular relevance to cervical lymph nodes and invasive disease.

Postoperative treatment with radioactive iodine is similarly well covered and there are excellent chapters on the management of undifferentiated tumours including medullary thyroid cancer, lymphoma and anaplastic malignancy. Medullary carcinoma of the thyroid is particularly well covered with reference to genetics and the more controversial role of prophylactic neck dissection in high-risk patients. The final part of the book covers new approaches in the management of thyroid cancer together with alternative options and future directions for therapy, which all makes for exciting reading.

Overall, I would highly recommend this book to all practitioners and associated specialties involved in the management of thyroid cancer. The book is clearly and concisely written, well illustrated and my only criticism would be the apparent bias towards the North American literature (which is hardly surprising given the authorship) together with a lack of emphasis on evidence from systematic reviews and references to recently published guidelines. However, these are minor criticisms of what I believe to be an excellent textbook.