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.