

recent findings and views which are alluded to in the captions to the illustrations in this atlas.

At a purchase price of £15, one would have preferred to have seen both aspects in one book in order to be able to recommend it to students. A novel and welcome feature is that the authors and publishers have made available a set of photomicrographs in the form of transparencies. This practice, now established in the case of the WHO publications concerning internationally agreed tumour classifications, is a useful aid to teachers and deserves to be successful. This atlas will prove to be a valuable addition to dental school and departmental libraries. It may also appeal to a few practitioners and regional consultants with a special interest in histopathology. The high price will probably keep it out of the reach of most undergraduate and postgraduate students.

J. S. GREENSPAN

Legal Aspects of Dental Practice. By GILBERT FORBES and ALAN A. WATSON. 220 × 140 mm. Pp. 170, with 9 illustrations. 1975. Bristol: Wright. £6.

Under the general title of *Legal Aspects of Dental Practice* this small volume comprises a major section written by the named authors, who are eminent members of the Department of Forensic Medicine of the University of Glasgow, and three small sections which are dealt with by colleagues in the same university who are experts on the subjects in question.

The major section contains a short chapter on dental legal history followed by brief accounts of the successive Dentists Acts and the present day General Dental Council. Successive chapters are devoted to the matters of consent and professional negligence under the heading 'Dental Responsibility', to the English and Scottish Legal Systems and to the problems attendant on a dentist's appearance in a court of law. The concluding two chapters are concerned with the causes of sudden natural death which are well covered, and then finally the law relating to drugs, which is undesirably brief for such an important subject.

For the section of practice management, Mr F. D. Murray, who is the Dental Surgeon in charge of the General Practices Teaching Unit in the Glasgow Dental School, has condensed a wide and varied subject into 36 pages of clear and concise information and advice. Chapter XI, compiled by Drs Parbrook and Millar of the Glasgow Department of Anaesthesia looks at the question of

accidents during general anaesthesia with the authority to be expected from the authors, and finally in conclusion Mr Warren Harvey gives a summary of dental identification and forensic odontology 'intended to indicate to the reader what can be done by the expert'.

What is the merit and place of this publication? It will certainly be of value to final year dental students and recently qualified practitioners, particularly those who have had little instruction in the legal and administrative problems of professional practice. A great deal of important information has been well laid out in the 170 pages, but most of the sections must necessarily be too brief to be of value as works of reference, and while it has the merit of being right up-to-date, much of the information in this book can be obtained elsewhere with little trouble.

It is therefore regrettable that the price is so high for a relatively small volume, with illustrations on only 9 of its 170 pages, and only this section being of a pleasant glossy type of paper. Nevertheless, the book is very readable and the subject matter should prove worth the expense to a substantial number of members and potential members of the dental profession.

D. V. TAYLOR

The Year Book of Dentistry 1974. Ed. by SIDNEY B. FINN, MERLE L. HALE, STANLEY B. HAZEN, ROBERT E. MOYERS, HAMILTON B. G. ROBINSON and SIDNEY I. SILVERMAN. 180 × 130 mm. Pp. 480, with 297 illustrations. 1974. Chicago. Year Book (London: Lloyd-Luke). £10.75.

Each year with passing editions the reviewer feels it necessary to re-examine the need for a book of this type and is tempted to assert 'let's be done with it—*The Year Book of Dentistry* has outlived its usefulness!', yet once engrossed in its subject matter it is plainly impossible to write off this book as having outlived its time.

The Year Book of Dentistry, for those who are not addicts, is a collection of selected articles on dental and related subjects which in this case were published and reviewed up to October 1973. There are twenty-seven sections, covering such subjects as diagnosis, oral pathology, oral medicine, preventive dentistry, paedodontic practice, oral surgery, speech, implant dentistry, restorative and reconstructive dentistry and dental practice. The difference between this book and other abstracts is the style of the comment at the end of each selected article by the editor responsible for the

selection. Thus, an article chosen for abstraction need not necessarily be a good piece of scientific work or even well written. On many previous occasions the editors have deliberately chosen a poor piece of work and analysed it as a salutary warning to many of us! On the whole, therefore, *The Year Book* is not for the research worker because he needs total reports on his subject, not selections or abstracts. There is also a lack of immediacy for him because the abstracts were all a year or more old before the publication of this book. *The Year Book* must have its greatest impact for the general dental practitioner, who should read and note the innovations and ideas introduced during the previous year, and having learnt should take heed and be influenced by this knowledge in his practice. The specialist clinician should read indiscriminately outside his own subject. Both will discover that dentistry is indivisible and that research and reports in one field will often cast their influence on another. An example from the present book might be the article by O'Leary, Miles Standish and Bloomer, 'Severe periodontal destruction following impression procedures', which cites cases in which the use of rubber base materials after electrosurgery has resulted in retention of the impression material in subgingival and alveolar spaces with subsequent necrosis.

The current interest in the United States regarding the responsibility of the dentist for examining for hypertension is exemplified by the abstract, 'High blood pressure detection by dentists', by Berman, Guarino and Giovannoli, which in a study of 1300 patients showed that 4-5 per cent of

patients seeking dental care had previously undetected hypertension.

The comments are of a high standard and add considerably to the original papers. A good example is Hamilton Robinson's lengthy note, following the excellent report by Dolby on recurrent oral ulceration, in which one is taken on a quick tour and description of recent literature on the subject. In view of one's own prejudices the comment by Stanley P. Hazen on fissure sealants is of interest: 'The preceding article discussed sealants in the light of information at the time. The results of this study indicate that more definitive investigations are needed before the routine use of sealants becomes a clinical reality. It is still necessary to develop explicit guidelines for clinical use of these materials, with follow-up instructions. The material is not a panacea as many believe. Use it intelligently! Be watching for additional information from good clinical studies.' To which one says 'Amen'.

In conclusion there is not a dentist who would not be interested and gain some important knowledge from this book, except, of course, those whose brain waves show zero readings and whose fingers have not yet been prised apart from their amalgam carriers.

The price of £10.75 seems excessive until one notes that it is about eight times that of the reviewer's first purchase of *The Year Book* of thirty years ago and compares that with a twenty-fold increase in fares by London Transport in the same period!

J. O. FORREST