

Book Review

European Journal of Orthodontics 30 (2008) 226
doi:10.1093/ejo/cjn003

The things you should have learned in dental school and never did (2007)

Author: Lee Leslie

Publisher: Dentalcomonline Inc., Ontario, Canada (www.dentalcomonline.com)

Price: Print €69.95; Electronic €39.95

The dental practice is a complex commercial and social microcosm for which almost all newly qualified dentists are ill-prepared. This is because most syllabi of dental schools do not cover the humanistic or business aspects of dental practice: many dental educators have never run full-time dental practices themselves.

Most established and experienced clinicians acquire these practice management skills through trial and error, learning from their mistakes as they go along. This book is a valuable and concise guide for those who are just embarking on their dental careers and those in their first few years of practice. The author uses his experience and insight to provide useful information and guidance on a number of important practice issues such as communication with patients and staff, marketing, and career choices. His pragmatic and practical advice on interpersonal skills is

interjected with humour and anecdotes which make the text very readable.

It is often said that patients stay with the clinician not necessarily because of his clinical skills, but because of the relationship between them, and the ability of the professional and the practice staff to relate to patients' problems. There are plenty of tips here on empathizing with patients and managing the dental team, which even the experienced practitioner will find beneficial.

Some of the phraseology and content in this book make it appear more suitable for the North American reader. This should not put off the reader as it is a very worthwhile self-development book for dentists, and following the recommendations in it may just turn a mediocre dental practice into an exceptional one.

Mahmoud Pourghadiri

Copyright of European Journal of Orthodontics is the property of Oxford University Press / UK and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.