

European Journal of Orthodontics 32 (2010) 753

doi:10.1093/ejo/cjq092

Advance Access Publication 5 October 2010

Clinical problem solving in dentistry, 3rd edn. (2010)

Editor: Edward W. Odell

Publisher: Churchill Livingstone Elsevier, Jordan Hill, Oxford, UK

Price: £39.99

ISBN: 978-0-443-06784-6

This book aptly demonstrates how problem-solving techniques can be applied to dentistry. According to the author, problem solving is a practical skill that cannot be acquired solely from textbooks. Professor Odell suggests that his book reorganizes reader's previous knowledge into a

clinically useful format. He also adds that supplementary clinical experience is always necessary.

Several well-known dental experts from the UK have worked as contributors on the book. The third edition includes 66 common and not so common problems, which can be

encountered in the dental office. This edition introduces 10 completely new cases, a description of which begins with the history of the case. Next, necessary examinations and investigations are described and differential diagnosis and treatment options suggested. As a whole, the book is well organized and easy to read. Unfortunately, a list of references is not included. Some readers might be interested in references or at least some suggestions for further reading.

Only a few orthodontic cases are presented, and they discuss problems mainly related to a child's dentition: an unerupted incisor, a missing lateral incisor, and an anterior crossbite. Most of the cases concern general dentistry or other specialities so an orthodontist may not

find them all interesting. However, an orthodontist could expand her/his clinical perspective by familiarizing themselves on cases, such as an avulsed or fractured permanent incisor, painful trismus, or gingival recession. Cases dealing with the treatment of autistic children or the recognition of child abuse should also be worthwhile for all readers.

Even if a well-versed orthodontist might be familiar with some of the issues described in the book, it still offers ample opportunity to explore in detail various problems confronted in other fields of dentistry.

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