

Clinical Virology in Oral Medicine and Dentistry. CRISPIAN SCULLY & LAKSHMAN SAMARANAYAKE. Pp. 489. Cambridge University Press; 1992. £95.00. ISBN 0 521 40102 X.

This book is designed for undergraduate and postgraduate dental students, and aims to bridge the gap between the research laboratory and the clinic. Five chapters on basic virology are followed by five chapters on specific virus infections of relevance to dentistry, one chapter on control of cross-infection, and one on 'Enigmatic Orofacial Disorders'.

The photographs are of poor quality, and concepts are not explained clearly at several places in the book. However, the major fault with the text is the large number of gross errors of two kinds: *terminology* and *basic science*. Examples of the former include: 'ensheath' instead of envelope (page 7); transmission by the 'oro-faecal' route (page 72); rotavirus described as an enterovirus (page 72); there are said to be 65 types of Coxsackie B viruses (page 184); hepatitis B core antigen is the Australian (*sic*) antigen (page 218); HIV-3 is 'accepted terminology' (page 261). Examples of the latter include: 20% of the population is said to shed VZV (page 26); Measles and rubella are transmitted via the genito-urinary tract (page 65); Hepatitis C is diagnosed by serum antigen detection, while hepatitis D requires DNA detection (page 100); the wrong molecule is enzyme-labelled in the Figure on page 106; an 'owl's eye' inclusion is said to be binuclear (page 108); and influenza vaccine is said to contain live, attenuated virus (page 120).

Overall, I doubt whether undergraduates would wish to wade through 500 pages of text on this subject and, if they did, there are better books available. Postgraduate dentists may find the detailed information on control of cross-infection helpful, but this is the only mitigating feature in the text.

PAUL D. GRIFFITHS
*Division of Communicable Diseases,
Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine,
Rowland Hill Street,
London, NW3 2PF*