

Book Review

A TEXTBOOK OF OPERATIVE DENTISTRY

A book by: Professor E. S. Akpata

Reviewed by: Shashi Patel,* BSc, DDS, MSc, FRACDS, FAGD, DDPH

Many years ago, dentistry was regarded as a single subject, and it was feasible for one individual to achieve a high degree of knowledge and expertise in all its aspects. However, developments came at an ever increasing pace not only in materials science but also in the techniques and cutting tools as well as the introduction of magnification loops and fiber-optics to facilitate micro-cavity preparations and endodontics. This evolution then let many practitioners to concentrate on one particular branch of dentistry. This tendency towards separation of the various branches was most marked in the dental schools, and sometimes the criticism was made that the student received a rather fragmented education. If this criticism is justified then, it is a matter of concern, because the core of the profession is the operative dentist and he above all others must have an integrated approach.

As a move towards better integration, increasing attention is being paid to restorative dentistry, in which conservative dentistry and material sciences are moving closer together and are being closely related to endodontics and to other branches of dentistry including, aesthetics, dentine bonding and cast intracoronal restorations. This book is a reflection of that trend.

A distinctive blend of art and science! If we want to ensure patient satisfaction and making operative dentistry a rewarding part of our practice, we have to follow an approach that will give us predictable results. This is the thrust of this book.

The book contains a unique set of empirically derived artistic principles combined with scientifically verifiable facts. The references are ample and up to date. Each chapter presents and illustrates highly refined step by step procedures. Readers will particularly benefit from the chapter on "Bleaching of Discolored Teeth," describing fluorosis and bleaching on which the author has published several articles in scientific journals.

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