

BOOK REVIEW

100 Years of Women in the Dental Profession in the UK, 1918-2018 **by Janine Brooks**

Hardback, 246 pages
Cambridge Scholars Publishing
June 2019

This book sets out to showcase the achievements of women dental professionals in the UK between 1918 and 2018 and this period was chosen to coincide with the centenary of women first obtaining the right to vote.

The first part of the book begins conventionally with a review of women active in dentistry during this time and examines the position of women in society in general over the same period. It provides a brief history of women in dentistry in the past before examining their progress in all branches of the profession during the last century.

This is not a fluent narrative history, it provides little new information, and it is easy to be discouraged by several pages of tables and short paragraphs that list the details of significant events. Nevertheless, these carefully researched chapters prove to be worth examining as they show how recent some of women's professional milestones have been, and they provide a useful background to the main focus of the book, which seeks to celebrate women dental professionals today across all aspects of dentistry.

The second section of the book contains profiles of over fifty successful women from within the whole profession: dentists, dental nurses, dental hygienists, dental therapists and a prosthetist. Each woman has written her own profile in response to the same series of questions to produce a series of mini histories. The author hopes these will prove to be an inspiration to all in dentistry and that the book will become part of dentistry's contemporary history. Brooks concludes the book with a brief chapter in which she makes predictions for a bright future for women in dentistry.

This is a very personal book and the author frequently expresses her own opinions and hopes throughout the text. She is clearly passionate about the women in her profession and manages to convey this enthusiasm to her audience in the second section. It is unclear how far this book will achieve its aim of providing role models for those looking either to enter the profession or to develop their career in new directions, but it is very probable that it will prove useful to researchers in the next one hundred years.

Julie Papworth
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