

TUMORS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM, H. G. Seydel, editor, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1975, 193 pp., \$18.50.

This short text follows the familiar multiauthor format currently in vogue in the publishing field and represents the proceedings of a meeting. There are ten chapters by a number of authors who represent the various therapeutic disciplines. The reader should not mistake this for a more comprehensive text dealing with the entire scope of current clinical, diagnostic, pathologic, radiotherapeutic, or rehabilitative problems in CNS tumors. Taken in this limited context, the reader will be apprised of selected surgical, radiotherapeutic hyperbaric oxygen (HPO) as adjuvant for radiotherapy, selected chemotherapy, heavy particle irradiation of pituitary tumors, cryosurgery, and nuclear diagnostic methods for selected tumors of the nervous system. Chapters that may be of interest to readers include those by Change, et al on the experience with a randomized trial of HPO and radiation for glioblastoma therapy; Kramer and Sheline, et al on pituitary tumors; Kjellberg on Proton-Brogg peak hypophysectomy; and perhaps Brady, et al on treatment of metastatic disease of the CNS by radiotherapy. There are large gaps in and variable presentational styles of the subjects covered. Pediatric and spinal cord tumors are not covered nor are tumors of special sites in problems mentioned, e.g., craniopharyngiomas, brain stem, posterior fossa, eye, and spine. Special histologies, radiation complications, radiobiology, combination chemoradiation or chemotherapy of adult tumors or EMI scanning are not included.

In summary, this is a highly selective set of papers, of limited scope, which should not be mistaken by the reader to be a broad, comprehensive text on tumors of the nervous system.

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NUCLEAR MEDICINE, Henry N. Wagner, Jr., editor, H. P. Publishing Co., New York, 1975, 272 pp., \$18.95.

This multiauthored text originally appeared as segments in *Hospital Practice* from April 1968 to July 1974 that have been extensively revised and updated by the authors prior to publication. The text is well illustrated and selectively referenced. The book is divided into four sections: the history of nuclear medicine; technology, including instrumentation, computers, color images, radiopharmaceuticals, and radiation risks; diagnosis and therapy, with the approach being by organ systems; and radioassay. Dr. Wagner is author or coauthor of 7 of the 24 chapters. A uniformly high standard is further ensured by contributors including: Beck and Anger on instruments; Winchell on radiopharmaceuticals; Adelstein on radiation risk; DeLand on the brain; DiChiro on cerebrospinal fluid dynamics; Braverman, Hollander, and Beierwaltes on the thyroid; Quinn on the gastrointestinal tract; Myers on history; Blafox on the kidney; Bell on the skeleton; McIntyre on the blood and reticuloendothelial system; George on therapy; Berson and Yalow on radioimmunoassay; and Murphy on competitive protein binding.

This book is not intended as an encyclopedic compendium to be utilized as a standard reference work for clinicians or investigators expert in the field of nuclear medicine, but rather it is designed primarily for the "practicing physician, as a guide to an important diagnostic resource, and for the medical student, house officer, and basic science student whose work is focused on medicine." In this respect the book fills a void in the spectrum of available textbooks and largely achieves its goal. Outstanding chapters include the one on computers and the one on cerebral circulation, which are characterized by clarity and a skillful use of analogy.

The necessity of including a chapter on color imaging and the need for so much emphasis on the thyroid, with three chapters devoted to this subject are questionable aspects of this book. A most disconcerting defect in this attractively illustrated volume is an overall lack of keying the illustrative material to the text.

These problems notwithstanding, this is a remarkable book in several aspects, with an impressively lucid and concise exposition of nuclear medicine. The melding of structure and function, which is the foundation of nuclear medicine, is consistently stressed. Dr. Wagner has upheld his well-earned reputation for clarity, organization, and conciseness in his editing of this book.

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CARDIOVASCULAR NUCLEAR MEDICINE, H. William Straus, Bertram Pitt, and A. Everette James, Jr., editors, C. V. Mosby, St. Louis, 1974, 383 pp., \$39.50.

This timely and well-illustrated book is the result of a symposium on cardiovascular nuclear medicine held at the Johns Hopkins University in 1973. Twenty-seven chapters written by 49 principal and coauthors provide an overview of the application of nuclear techniques in the evaluation of patients with acquired and congenital heart disease.

The book is divided into 27 presentations dealing with virtually all aspects of in vivo and in vitro cardiovascular radionuclide procedures. Major emphasis is placed on those tests currently being evaluated in patients with ischemic heart disease. In this regard, there are excellent sections covering noninvasive (nontraumatic) methods of measuring certain parameters of left ventricular function, e.g., ejection fraction, the evaluation of regional cardiac wall motion (ECG-gated imaging), myocardial imaging with radioactive agents such as ^{43}K , and the selective uptake of certain radiopharmaceuticals in acutely infarcted myocardium. Several techniques for studying regional myocardial blood flow—such as ^{133}Xe washout and coronary perfusion imaging using labeled microparticles injected into the coronary circulation, which are invasive in terms of their being performed at the time of cardiac catheterization—are discussed.

Other topics of interest to the practicing nuclear medicine physician include the detection and quantitation of intercardiac shunts, techniques to study alterations in regional pulmonary perfusion in cardiac and thromboembolic disease, and methods to evaluate lower extremity blood flow in patients with peripheral vascular disease. Sections on instru-

mentation, radiopharmaceuticals, cardiopulmonary physiology, and in vitro assays applicable to cardiac disorders are presented.

The only obvious fault with this otherwise excellent text is a problem common to most rapidly developing fields in medicine; thus, while the reader will appreciate the concise review of cardiovascular nuclear medicine methodology, one may be frustrated by the fact that new tracers as well

as new techniques have been introduced since this book was written. Nevertheless, most of the basic techniques of current interest are clearly described in sufficient detail to provide a background for those interested in entering this exciting field.

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