

**INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS. SECTION 79: SULFUR-CONTAINING RADIOPROTECTIVE AGENTS, Z. M. Bacq, ed, Oxford, U.K., Pergamon, 1975, 345 pp.**

This book, which represents the efforts of nine contributors who are primarily from Belgium, contains nine chapters and author and subject indexes. The chapters are concerned with toxicity, general pharmacologic properties (including the effects on the heart, vascular permeability, endocrine organs, the nervous system, etc.), ultrastructural effects observed with the electron microscope, the pharmacokinetics of the agents, their metabolic effects, effects on cell growth processes, protection by sulfur-containing agents against poisoning by radiomimetic drugs, and the importance of pharmacologic effects for radioprotective action.

During the two decades after World War II, sulfur-containing radioprotective agents were thought to have great potential benefit for many purposes, such as the protection of populations against the radiation effects of nuclear weapons, the protection of normal tissues during radiation therapy, etc. While much of the initial enthusiasm was lost as experimental data increased, radioprotective agents (particularly the sulfur-containing ones) have become valuable tools in the study of radiobiologic phenomena at the molecular level.

Although the authors frequently refer to the radioprotective effects of the agents in question, the bulk of the text is devoted to the pharmacologic properties of these drugs, both in lower animals and in man. The chapters are well referenced with respect to the material presented. Since much of the research was conducted in the 1950's and 1960's, the reference list gives the appearance of being out of date. This is not the case, however, since a number of references published during the 1970's are cited. The inclusion of the titles of the papers, together with the specific literature citations, makes the reference list indeed valuable. This volume represents, in my view, a valuable reference source for individuals concerned with any aspect of the clinical or investigational uses of radioprotective agents.

The book is handsomely constructed, and the text is clearly printed on high-grade paper. Since the native tongue of the contributors seems to be French, the occasionally irregular English construction is understandable and does not detract from the discussion.

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**MEDICAL NEUROLOGY, 2nd ed, J. Gilroy and J. Stirling Meyer, New York, Macmillan, 1975, 769 pp, \$22.95.**

Despite many modern diagnostic innovations, the clinical neurologic evaluation, viewed as a special neurodiagnostic procedure, still leads the field in terms of information provided, hazard, and cost.

The complexity of the subject has encouraged many textbooks of clinical neurology to proliferate, each intending to make available more or less of the indigestible multidisciplinary information accumulated in a century of developing neurology. Some of these texts, seeking readability,

reduce the amount of information provided. Others are encyclopedic in their coverage and are correspondingly tough to read. This volume by Gilroy and Meyer tends toward this all-inclusive approach.

It is what I feel a neurology text should be: an up-to-date detailed authoritative reference. It is no more intended for light reading than the phone directory. A great deal of well-organized material is compactly presented, despite the book's 769 pages. The only way to learn neurology, as in other complex clinical specialties, is through contact with patients. Seeing a case should stir the physician to seek a good reference work, one with all the relevant details organized in an easily accessible form.

This edition appears 6 years after the first in 1969. It emphasizes modern neurology. Although the text mentions EMI scanning at a few points, no actual illustration of these scans is included. Despite this, the text is well illustrated and many classical clinical entities are shown. If you seek an excellent modern neurology text at a reasonable price, this is it.

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**PEDIATRIC NUCLEAR MEDICINE, Leonard M. Freeman and M. Donald Blaufox, New York, Grune and Stratton, 1975, 211 pp.**

This book is a reprint of two issues of *Seminars in Nuclear Medicine*, originally published in October 1972 and January 1973. As the authors state in their preface, the articles present a broad overview of the field, rather than a comprehensive review of all of the available pediatric radionuclide studies.

The volume contains 211 pages, including many illustrations and useful tables. Although it is primarily directed towards specialists in nuclear medicine who have contact with pediatric patients, pediatricians as well as other specialists and house officers might find the book a useful reference since most of the sections are clinically oriented.

The initial article describes the factors to be considered in performing radionuclide studies on children. This is followed by a very useful section on pediatric radiopharmaceutical dosimetry to document the relative safety of the various procedures. The remainder of the volume is divided into sections dealing with in vitro studies and the imaging of the different organ systems. Because of recent advances in bone imaging, an additional section, which was not a part of the original two volumes of *Seminars*, is included. This section discusses bone imaging with <sup>99m</sup>Tc-phosphate.

*Pediatric Nuclear Medicine* should provide the nuclear medicine specialist with a useful introduction to the subject. In addition, it could serve as a helpful reference to clinicians concerned with the care and management of their pediatric patients and interested in the available diagnostic pediatric radionuclide procedures.

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