

BOOK REVIEWS

LIVER SCANS, CLEARANCES, AND PERFUSIONS—THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR HEPATOLOGY. Marshall Brucer. Huntington, New York, Robert E. Krieger Publishing Company, 1977. 155 pages. \$14.50.

This book is fashioned in the classical "Brucer style" and presents a comprehensive view of the history of radionuclide techniques in the evaluation of liver structure and function. The early chapters consist of a review of the terminology and basic hepatic anatomy and physiology related to radionuclide studies, followed by a discussion of the development of hepatic clearance tests, using iodinated rose bengal or a variety of particulate agents.

The next section addresses the assessment of liver structure using gold colloid and technetium-99m radiopharmaceuticals. The diagnostic trade-offs attendant to the change from Au-198 and rectilinear scanners to Tc-99m and Anger cameras are presented in depth. In this discussion, Dr. Brucer raises several provocative questions, including that of the wisdom of using Tc-99m sulphur colloid for liver imaging. The specific techniques used to perform the various tests of liver structure and function presented in the text are well outlined.

The discussion of the interpretation of liver images includes a suggested format for synthesizing the results of liver imaging by enumerating the observations and reaching appropriate diagnostic conclusions. A comprehensive bibliography that serves to document the progress made in radioisotopic studies of the liver from the early 1950's to the mid-70's completes the text.

This book represents a delightful review of the history of nuclear hepatology, liberally sprinkled with entertaining and thought-provoking "Brucerisms" (sic). Although it should not be viewed as a comprehensive text on state-of-the-art liver imaging, it is an interesting chronicle of how we got to our present stage of development, and practitioners of nuclear medicine will find it well worth reading.

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CLINICAL ONCOLOGY. John Martin and George J. Hill II, eds. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders Co., 1977, 819 pp, 350 illustrations, \$30.00.

In a text concerning a field with the scope of oncology, the relatively limited size of the book necessarily demands

that some areas be abbreviated, and, unfortunately, in this book nuclear medicine is given limited coverage. It is instructive to observe, however, where nuclear medicine was thought worthy of comment by these authors, since this offers some index of the significance of nuclear medicine in oncology from their prospective.

There are nine chapters on general principles—covering biology, staging, the role of diagnostic therapeutic disciplines, and some comments on rehabilitation and follow-up—and 16 chapters devoted to the discussion of tumors in specific organ sites. The chapter on remote effects of cancer on the host includes discussions of the roles of various hormone radioimmunoassays, ferrokinetic studies, and carcinoembryonic antigens (CEA). CEA is discussed also in the chapters on the gastrointestinal tract. Radionuclide methods in the detection and recognition of cancer are thought to be "still rather inexact" and "sometimes providing confusing information, as many nonneoplastic diseases also cause abnormalities in scans." The liver, lung, bone, and brain are noted as sites that lend themselves to radionuclide diagnosis. The chapter on the principles of radiation therapy is a particularly good one because it summarizes a great deal of information about the fundamentals of radiation. In addition, internally administered isotopes are mentioned, including the treatment of thyroid carcinomas and polycythemia vera. The application of radionuclide procedures is not mentioned in the sections on pediatric malignancy or breast cancer. In the chapter on prostatic carcinomas, the value of bone scanning in the presence of pain is discussed, but no mention of P-32 therapy for palliation of pain due to metastatic disease is included.

Nuclear medicine physicians should enjoy reading the sections of this book that relate to tumors they see in their practice. The text, however, is primarily directed to medical students, house officers, and nononcologic specialists, so that it may be too basic for the advanced practitioner. Since the diagnosis of cancer provides the base for much nuclear medicine practice, it is necessary that nuclear physicians maintain their skills in the use of the oncologic procedures that have been painstakingly developed over the past 30 years.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

The receipt of the following books is acknowledged:

Atom and Ion Sources, L. Valyi, C.Sc. (Phys.). 429 pp, illustrated. London, John Wiley & Sons (and Akademiai Kiado, Budapest), 1977. \$41.00

Biological Effects of 224 Ra: Benefit and Risk of Therapeutic Application. W.A. Muller, H.G. Ebert, eds. 236 pp, illustrated. The Hague/Boston, Martinus Nijhoff Medical Division for The Commission of the European Communities, 1978.

Atlas of Radiologic Anatomy. Lothar Wicke. 234 pp, illustrated. Baltimore-Munich, Urban & Schwarzenberg, 1978. \$15.00