

## RADIOLOGICAL PHYSICISTS.

*J.A. del Regato. New York, American Institute of Physics, 1985, 188 pp, \$25.00*

This delightful collection of essays embraces the major contributions of ten eminent physicists, nine of whom were Nobel laureates. It includes historical portraits of Wilhelm Röntgen, Marie Curie, Max Planck, Ernest Rutherford, William H. Bragg, William Duane, Niels Bohr, Frédéric Joliot, Arthur Compton, and Enrico Fermi. There also is an extensive section of biographical notes concerned with 70 associates and colleagues of the principals, as well as a section of 50 entries of subject notes, both of which augment and enhance the book. Over 400 references include those of the classical papers upon which much of the basic aspects of nuclear medicine rest. An especially fine feature is the inclusion of 130 photographs and illustrations of such quality that teachers of the subject readily may make useful slides from them.

Doctor del Regato has skillfully put together these historical essays in a warm and in-depth narrative style. Commonly, he includes near ancestors, parents, siblings, children, and even grandchildren of the principals. He spices his subjects with piquantly delightful anecdotes of interpersonal associations such as are not found in standard biographical works. His artful uses of an impressive vocabulary embellish and add luster to the book.

This book will appeal especially to those who regard most of the basic aspects of nuclear medicine to have stemmed from applications of contributions of physicists, and especially of nuclear physicists.

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**Editor's Note:** Dr. William G. Myers discussed *Radiological Physicists* during his Historian Report to the Board of Trustees of The Society of Nuclear Medicine in March, 1986. It has since been placed in the SNM Historian's Archives in New York City.

## DIAGNOSTIC NUCLEAR MEDICINE: PATIENT STUDIES.

*Henry N. Wagner, Jr., Julia W. Buchanan, Danilo Espinola-Vassallo. Chicago, Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc., 1986, 430 pp, \$54.95*

The saying "Something old, something new, something borrowed, and something blue," may be an accurate description of this volume. The blue covers enclose an introduction and dozens of illustrative cases which make specific teaching points about the diagnostic value of the procedures in nuclear medicine. Both old (planar imaging) and new (PET imaging) studies are included. Borrowing the conventional technique of brief case presentations, the volume goes still further by asking questions that require true or false answers, and by providing a discussion and selected literature references.

Major sections of the book cover studies of the brain, heart, lung, thyroid, bone, liver and spleen, gastrointestinal tract, gallbladder, kidney, and testes. Eight smaller sections plus an appendix on the commonly used radiopharmaceuticals (as well as an index) complete the volume. The reader might be somewhat intimidated by the fact that the first 9 sets of illustrations utilize PET images. The format of dealing with each case by a statement of the problem and presentation of a priori data, the nuclear medicine study (description and interpretation), hospital course, questions, discussion, and references, soon sets a pace with which the reader can become comfortable.

For the physician beginning in nuclear medicine, separation of the "description" of the images from the "interpretation" of findings is a particularly elegant model to follow. The questions then focus the reader on crucial aspects of the topic being presented. Some readers might have wished to have the "discussion" prior to the questions, but the format likely makes for greater thought this way. Although one could nitpick with some of the answers (p. 191, question 3; p. 297, question 5 for example), nearly all the questions are well-phrased and thought provoking. Most of the illustrations reproduce quite well and are representative of the "state-of-the-art" (although on p. 286, the liver and spleen are not separated on the left lateral view).

This volume will make a valuable teaching aid for residents (both in terms of format and content). It will also be a primary reference source for those who wish to review for board examinations or examine the broad sweep of the clinical utility of the procedures in nuclear medicine. The clarity of the case presentations and the discussions can serve as a model for others. This volume will be a welcome addition to nearly all nuclear medicine collections.

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## Books Received

**Table of Radioactive Isotopes.** *E. Browne, R.B. Firestone, New Jersey, John Wiley & Sons, 1986, \$59.95*

**Nuclear Techniques in Diagnostic Medicine.** *P.P. van Rijk, Ed., Dordrecht, The Netherlands, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 1986, 527 pp, \$156.50*

**Amphetamines and pH-Shift Agents for Brain Imaging.** *H.J. Beirsack, C. Winkler, Eds., New York, Walter de Gruyter & Company, 1986, 186 pp*

**Abdominal Imaging. An Introduction.** *M.P. Frick, S.B. Feinbert, Chicago, Year Book Medical Publishers, 1986, 233 pp, \$49.95*

**NCRP Proceedings No. 7: Radioactive Waste.** *Bethesda, NCRP Publications, 1986, 289 pp*