Book Reviews

AN ATLAS OF NORMAL SKELETAL SCINTIGRAPHY.

J.J. Flanagan, M.N. Maisey. Frome, England, Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd., 1985, 66 pp, $25.00

This one-volume atlas was compiled to offer diagnostic imaging technicians, medical students, trainees in diagnostic radiology, and established consultants information related to the appearance of the normal bone scan and to demonstrate the degree of anatomic detail available from bone scintigraphy.

The format of the book presents the skeletal anatomy, beginning with the head and continuing down the body to the feet, by utilizing (a) photographs of the human skeleton, (b) scintiphotos, and (c) plain radiographs all in an identical format that is closely matched for size.

The strengths of the volume reside in the format selected for the illustrations, the clarity of the scan reproductions, the logical progression of anatomic presentation (i.e., from calvarium to feet) and, of importance, the author's decision to duplicate each scintiphoto. By duplicating the scan images, one photograph is presented to the reader solely for anatomic information with the second, identical image containing the anatomic labels. This format ensures presentation of unencumbered scan information.

A weakness of the presentation is the use of red lines connecting the labeling information to the anatomic site. In areas of intense radionuclide uptake, it was, on occasion, difficult to discern the precise location of the termination of the red line; for clarity the authors may have done better by using arrows which were black on white and white on black. Additionally, there is no glossary or index so that for the completely uninitiated, it might be difficult to locate a specific anatomic structure. However, for the individual routinely involved in imaging this should present no problem.

An additional potential weakness is the elementary level of anatomic structures that is presented on the labeled images; only the more basic structures are delineated. This could limit the use of this text to serving as a reference manual for either students or technicians in training, or as a guide to be utilized along with a more in-depth anatomic text book.

Overall, the book does offer, as the authors suggest, a correlation between scintigraphic findings and normal skeletal anatomy; however, the appeal will be more toward those in training rather than the established consultant in nuclear medicine.

WILLIAM D. KAPLAN
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Boston, Massachusetts

NCRP PROCEEDINGS No. 6—SOME ISSUES IMPORTANT IN DEVELOPING BASIC RADIATION PROTECTION RECOMMENDATIONS.

National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, Bethesda, NCRP Publications, 1985, 325 pp, $19.00 (paperback)

The annual meeting of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) consists of a topical symposium, including a Lauriston S. Taylor Lecture, and reports of its various committees and work groups. The proceedings of each session has been published in a single volume each year since 1980, but they were not issued as part of the well-known NCRP Report series and are therefore not widely distributed.

A total of nine invited papers, most dealing with the difficulties of assessing human risk from radiation, were presented by a distinguished collection of authors. The 1984 Taylor lecture, "Limitation and Assessment in Radiation Protection," was presented by Harald H. Rossi. NRC, EPA, CDRH, and DOE representatives gave their perspectives on the real and desired interactions between NCRP and their agencies, followed by the reports from several standing and ad hoc committees.

The *raison d'etre* of NCRP is the development of radiation protection recommendations, based on its evaluation of the scientific literature and input from the leading radiation effects investigators in the United States. The papers presented in the scientific session of this meeting represent state-of-the-art summaries of the various topical areas. In general, the authors reported on our present knowledge and the gaps or weaknesses in that knowledge. The papers are written at an advanced level, with no apologies for the use of mathematic formalisms and large quantities of data. Each article is comprehensive and exhaustive—this is definitely not a cocktail table, leisure-time bit of fluff. To my knowledge, there is no better or more up-to-date compendium of all of the facts and philosophies underpinning our radiation protection concepts. This volume is an excellent update of, and adjunct to, the 1980 BEIR-III Report, and it belongs in every library that contains a used and battered copy of the BEIR-III Report.

ANTHONY R. BENEDETTO
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas

NUCLEAR IMAGING IN PEDIATRICS.

A.S. Siddiqui. Chicago, Year Book Medical Publishers, 1985, 306 pages, $44.95

Over the past few years there have been several new pediatric nuclear medicine texts published. Each offers a slightly different approach to the subject. This book is billed as a comprehensive clinical text of pediatric nuclear medicine and is geared for the full-time practitioner as well as the radiologist who sees such pediatric problems less frequently. An introductory chapter on physics is purposely and appropriately omitted. The book is divided into an organ system approach and the chapters are organized in a problem oriented manner. The author reviews the technical aspects, indications, and interpretations for many of the commonly performed pediatric nuclear medicine procedures. A step by step approach for

each procedure is provided and some "tricks of the trade" are provided. One minor problem with this text is that this reviewer finds the print somewhat difficult to read.

The first chapter offers a brief review of pediatric dose schedules, sedation methods and techniques of injection and imaging. The remaining chapters, divided by organ systems, review the relevant agents, physiologic mechanisms of the radiopharmaceutical, and traumatic, inflammatory, and degenerative processes, in addition to vascular abnormalities and tumors. In addition, the author reviews the effects of diseases on adjacent structures.

As this is a nuclear medicine text there is an intentional lack of correlative plane films, computed tomographic, and ultrasound images. For the most part, the review of organ systems is fairly complete. I would have liked to see more anatomic diagrams and case examples in the sections on the heart, lung, and kidneys. Future editions would benefit from such correlative illustrations and expansion of the case presentations.

Overall, this well-organized text adequately fulfills its purpose of familiarizing the practicing radiologist and nuclear physician with the indications, interpretations, and technical aspects of pediatric nuclear medicine procedures. It is also recommended for nuclear medicine and radiology residents and technologists who are involved in pediatric nuclear imaging.

BRUCE J. BARRON
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas

Books Received

Analytical and Chromatographic Techniques in Radiopharmaceutical Chemistry. *D.M. Wieland, M.C. Tobes, T.J. Mangner, Eds. New York, Springer-Verlag, 1986, 300 pp, $49.50*

Immunoscintigraphy. *L. Donato, K. Britton. New York, Gordon and Breach Science Publishers, 1985, 378 pp, $49.00*

Atlas of Positron Emission Tomography of the Brain. *W.-D. Heiss, C. Beil, K. Herholz, G. Pawlik, et al. New York, Springer-Verlag, 1985, 130 pp, $52.00*

Dictionary of Radiation Protection, Radiobiology and Nuclear Medicine. *R. Sube. Amsterdam, Elsevier, 1986, 475 pp, $94.75*

The Elements of Graphing Data. *W.S. Cleveland. Monterey, Wadsworth Advanced Books and Software, 1985, 323 pp, $27.95 cloth/$18.95 paper*