MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING
David D. Stark and William D. Bradley, Jr., CV Mosby Company, 1988, 1,516 pp, $199.00

This extensive volume (1,470 pages plus index) represents a comprehensive text of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) complete with numerous high quality, including some color, pertinent and succinctly legended illustrations. The text is divided into three basic units, each of which would constitute a text in its own right.

The first unit is entitled "Introduction" but consists of 14 chapters and 265 pages and covers all of the so-called nonclinical aspects of MRI from basic principles to equipment and economics. While Dr. Wherli’s presentation of the basic principles is similar to other excellent chapters he has written on this topic, a number of the chapters included in this section will be difficult for the individual not familiar with the basic physics of magnetic resonance imaging. For the more practiced imager, the chapters on the physiologic basis of magnetic relaxation, image contrast and noise, and flow phenomenon are highly recommended.

The second unit, on the "Central Nervous System", encompasses 462 pages and represents a thorough treatment of the most common application of magnetic resonance imaging. The units are divided into both anatomical and disease process groups, but in each normal anatomy and pathophysiological alterations are well detailed. This section alone justifies the purchase of this text.

The third section, entitled "Body" reviews the remaining clinical utilizations of MRI by major anatomical classifications with additional chapters on Obstetrics and Pediatrics. These chapters vary in depth of treatment but generally reflect the current clinical experience. The heart and great vessel chapter is somewhat cursory, but for an extensive review in this area, the recent publication by Dr. Higgins is now available. In this section, the chapters involving the mediastinum and lung, the liver, and the musculoskeletal systems are particularly worthwhile.

While most texts of this length, encompassing a topic experiencing as much change as we are currently seeing in the field of magnetic resonance imaging are frequently obsolete before the first publishing, Drs. Bradley and Stark should be congratulated on producing a volume so comprehensive, yet wholly current in its treatment of the field. This work is an essential part of the imager’s library and in comparison with other radiologic texts, the price must be considered modest.

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Books Received