

**Radiology Review Manual.** Wolfgang Dahnert, William & Wilkins, Baltimore, MD, 1991, 583 pp, \$55.00.

Soon after the start of a residency in radiology, the resident comes to realize the immense amount of information that must be mastered, both in preparation for the board examination and for clinical practice. The resident often spends much time, energy, and frustration searching for texts to answer questions on disease processes, associations, and differential diagnoses. Until the publication of the *Radiology Review Manual* by Wolfgang Dahnert, a one volume comprehensive review of diagnostic radiology did not exist. This book was created to be a quick review on the vast number of topics necessary for preparation for the radiology boards. It was, as the author states, meant to be "the book under the pillow."

The author was faced with the formidable task of organizing and categorizing the huge volume of material contained within the many subspecialty areas of diagnostic radiology. The chapters were organized in a manner similar to that of the board examination: chapters include the musculoskeletal system, central nervous system, chest, GI, etc. Each chapter begins with a list of patterns found in interpreting films and their associated differential diagnoses. Simple, appropriate line drawings are included to help convey information that is difficult to describe in verse. The remainder of the chapter is a list of disease entities arranged alphabetically with a brief description of their radiologic appearance, associations, and differential diagnoses.

This book is sure to become an invaluable tool for the resident in preparation for the board examination as well as for the junior resident and practicing radiologist in search of a quick review of information. Particularly useful are the acronyms and mnemonics contained within each chapter. The material within each chapter is thoughtfully arranged and the descriptions under each disease entity are clear and concise. The index is extremely

complete, which makes finding the desired information simpler.

Although the author himself states that this book is "quite unsuitable to be read cover to cover," the *Radiology Review Manual* fills the need for a concise, yet encyclopedic and comprehensive review of diagnostic radiology. I am certain that it will have a place in the library of many resident radiologists in the upcoming years.

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**The Visible Human Body: An Atlas of Sectional Anatomy.** Gunther von Hagens, Michael H. Ross, Lynn J. Romrell, Klaus Tiedemann, Lea Febiger, 1991, 151 pp, \$37.50.

This book was developed as a guide to sectional imaging of the human body. Photographs of plastinated specimens 2.5-4-mm thick are reproduced in axial, coronal, and sagittal planes. Several accompanying CT and MRI images are included for comparison at selected levels. The atlas is organized into sections devoted to regional anatomy. It is primarily intended as an aid to three-dimensional imaging for medical students, residents, radiologists, and surgeons.

The plastination technique combined with the thinness of the sections has resulted in photographs of superb clarity of anatomic detail. I believe this technique is an improvement over other currently available atlases of photographed cadaveric specimens. Pertinent anatomic structures are clearly labeled and the line drawings that accompany each photograph are helpful in depicting the plane of section obtained.

Although this atlas will undoubtedly be of use to medical students and those learning anatomy, I believe there are shortcomings that make this book less useful to the radiologist. The atlas thoroughly covers axial sectioning such as that visualized in CT. However, sagittal and coronal section-

ing is not covered quite as thoroughly. These planes of section are frequently the most difficult to visualize conceptually and are routinely used in MRI. With the increasingly widespread availability of MRI, understanding anatomic relationships in these planes is increasingly important for both radiologists and clinicians. The addition of more CT and MRI correlation would be useful, especially a 1:1 ratio between the photography and a corresponding CT or MR image. Less than 20 CT or MR images are included in this book, making it significantly less useful as a guide for the radiologist or radiology resident.

In summary, I believe that the quality of the photographs in combination with the thoroughness of coverage of axial imaging makes this book a useful aid to anyone desiring a more complete understanding of cross-sectional anatomy. However, the lack of adequate CT and MRI correlation, as well as the less thorough coverage of other routine radiologic imaging planes makes this book of lesser importance for the radiologist.

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#### Books Received

**Conceptual Basis for Calculations of Absorbed-Dose Distributions (NCRP Report No. 108),** National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, Bethesda, MD, 234 pp, \$22.00.

**Current Trends in Nuclear Medicine in Pakistan,** Shahid Kamal, editor, Akhtar Ahmed, associate editor, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, 540 pp. (To order a book contact: M. Aslam Khalid, Librarian, Centre for Nuclear Studies, Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology, P.O. Nilore, Rawalpindi Pakistan).