such as a meningioma with extracranial metastases and a couple of cases of Hodgkin’s disease of the orbit.

The book opens with a very brief, incomplete, and perhaps slightly misleading discussion of the technical aspects of computed tomography. This section is followed by a relatively short presentation of normal anatomy and normal and post-surgical variants. The remaining 200-odd pages are devoted to the presentation of various abnormalities.

The technical quality of the book itself is adequate, and the quality of the illustrations is comparable to that seen in the better radiographic journals, but not quite up to the best that can be achieved. The CT scans presented are all from an EMI head scanner with a 160 × 160 matrix. Most of the arteriographic illustrations are of good to excellent quality. The radionuclide images shown are of adequate quality generally, although in several cases the views illustrated are not those that would best demonstrate the lesion.

I believe this book lives up to its author’s stated goals—to provide a “basic handbook to serve as an introduction to the technique and provide an elementary knowledge of computed tomography.” Whether the book will meet the needs of the individual reader depends upon what those needs are. It is adequate in the presentation of a broad range of illustrative examples with correlations to more conventional imaging techniques, and can be read in less than 2 hr, or studied in depth more leisurely.

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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PHYSICS OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE.

This short volume is a good elementary presentation of the physical principles involved in nuclear medicine. In a very basic and brief manner, the authors introduce the reader in 12 chapters to the following: elementary mathematics, the structure of matter and the nature of radioactivity, nuclear decay processes, the interaction of radiation with matter, scintillation detectors, scanners, gamma cameras, other imaging devices (including positron cameras, semiconductor and gas-filled detectors, multiwire proportional chambers, and transmission and fluorescent imaging), radionuclides in medicine, statistics of radiation measurements, radiation safety, and radiation dosimetry. Each chapter concludes with four to 14 multiple-choice type problems and questions, the answers to which are found in Appendix IV. The figures and tables are very nicely done and adequate for the discussion. Appendix I (alphabetical list of the elements), Appendix II (conversion factors), and Appendix III (physical data for some useful radionuclides) supplement the text and should be useful to the beginning student. The index is all-inclusive.

Perhaps even an elementary text such as this could either have included or expanded the following areas: electromagnetic spectrum, biologic effects of radiation, personnel monitoring, radiation protection to include regulations, benefits vs. risks, and radiation units. Undoubtedly each chapter should have referenced additional reading.

The book is recommended for those interested in an introduction to nuclear medicine. It could well serve as a basic text for nuclear medicine technologists, to be supplemented by either additional reading or lecture material.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

The receipt of the following books is acknowledged:


Paul Goodwin and Dandamudi Rao in their An Introduction to the Physics of Nuclear Medicine have written a text intended to fulfill this need. Unfortunately, they have failed in several respects. With the number of their attempt to keep the presentation descriptive and brief (the entire text is only 150 pages) they have oversimplified some of the basic concepts. Physics in Nuclear Medicine by James & Phelps...