BOOK REVIEWS

Selection of books for review is based on the editor's opinions regarding possible reader interest and on the availability of the book to the editor. Occasional selections may include books on topics somewhat peripheral to the subject matter ordinarily considered acceptable.

Textbook of Nuclear Medicine: Basic Science

Editors	A. F. G. Rocha and J. C. Harbert
Publisher	Lea & Febiger (1978)
Pages	412
Price	$27.50
Reviewer	Dennis Patton

The editors have assembled an impressive panel of writers from the United States and Brazil, who have compiled a textbook that is an important contribution to nuclear medicine. It is a companion textbook to another by the same editors (*Textbook of Nuclear Medicine: Clinical Applications*). The book on basic science covers a wide range of subjects, and, unlike previous books on the subject, has special chapters on ultrasound, CT scanning, radiocarbon breath analysis, and neutron activation analysis. The book will be of interest to scientists associated with clinical or developmental nuclear medicine, and to nuclear medicine physicians needing a better background in the basic sciences. The book is quite thorough and contains a good bibliography with each chapter. The authors concentrate on principles, leaving the lengthier tabular data to the references. The subject matter is current: computer applications, semiconductor detectors, and new radiotracers, in addition to the four special chapters mentioned.

Quality control procedures for radiotracers are well documented, though quality control for instrumentation is also needed. Chapters dealing with instrumentation could have provided more practical information on clinical use for the benefit of scientists. Dose calibrators are only mentioned, and there is no discussion on operation or quality control. Compton effect and backscatter are important concepts to clinical nuclear medicine and should be discussed more widely. Internal radiation dosimetry is discussed, but there is no discussion of external dosimetry, an important omission.

In general, the style of writing is quite clear and key points are easy to find. The book will serve as an excellent introduction or reference, and together with the companion volume on clinical applications, makes an important addition to the nuclear medicine library.

Dennis D. Patton, MD (AB, physics, University of California at Berkeley, 1953; MD, University of California, Los Angeles, 1959), was in private practice in Santa Monica, California from 1960 to 1965. Following a residency in radiology, he was certified by the American Board of Radiology in 1968 and by the American Board of Nuclear Medicine in 1972. He served as assistant professor of radiology and director of nuclear medicine at the University of California at Irvine, from 1968 to 1970; associate professor of radiology and clinical director of nuclear medicine, Vanderbilt University, from 1970 to 1975; and professor of radiology and director of the Division of Nuclear Medicine, University of Arizona, 1975 to the present. Dr. Patton's research interests are the evaluation of novel imaging techniques in nuclear medicine, measurement of cerebral blood flow using tracer techniques, and clinical decision analysis.

Professional Engineer's License Guide

Author	Joseph D. Eckard, Jr.
Publisher	Herman Publishing, Inc. (1978)
Pages	108
Price	$6.95; cloth $11.95
Reviewer	David J. Hall, P.E.

Professional Engineer's License Guide is a complete analysis of how one goes about obtaining Engineering Registration. It is a step by step procedure manual. While much of the material needed can be obtained from one's own State Board as listed in Appendix E, the book does gather all the necessary information in one place.

The references in Appendix D are helpful to a potential registrant for review. Especially helpful are the thoughts on "why registration?" and the latest views of the professional societies on the industry exemption clause.

However, the book does have several errors, including

1. *Educational Requirements* (p. 8). "In Arizona and many other states if one goes to a non-Engineer's Council for Professional Development engineering curriculum school