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: Clinical Applications

Editors	Antonio Fernando Goncalves Rocha, M.D. and John Charles Harbert, M.D.
Publisher	Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1979)
Pages	495
Price	$32.50
Reviewer	D. A. Bromley

In all of medicine, the area of nuclear medicine is one of the most rapidly growing and has some of the most dramatic consequences. Application of the instrumentation, radioisotopes, concepts, and techniques of the nuclear scientist to medical problems, both diagnostic and clinical, is proceeding at a rate that makes almost any volume in the field obsolete before it appears. At the same time, because progress in nuclear medicine depends on the combined efforts of both physicians and nuclear scientists, it is essential for continuing progress that up-to-date review volumes be available, and, as nuclear medicine becomes more and more a recognized specialty within both medicine and nuclear science, it is of crucial importance that textbooks be available.

Rocha and Harbert, who are, respectively, director of the Center of Nuclear Medicine at Guanabara in Brazil and associate professor of medicine and radiology and director of the Division of Nuclear Medicine at the Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C., have in this book made a major contribution to the available literature by coordinating detailed reports from 30 internationally selected experts in nuclear medicine.

The textbook contains 13 chapters on the thyroid, the central nervous system, the skeleton, the gastrointestinal system, the lung, the cardiovascular system, the kidney, adrenal scanning, the blood, tumors, pediatric considerations, water in electrolytes, and guidelines for evaluating new tests.

Obviously, with 30 different contributors, the level and quality of treatment vary throughout the text, but the editors have made an attempt to homogenize the material and minimize confusion on the part of students using the text. Illustrations have, on the whole, been well chosen and are used liberally.

As already noted, no textbook in this field can hope to be completely current and at the frontiers of so rapidly moving a field. This one is no exception. For any student of nuclear medicine, however, or for any nuclear scientist interested in nuclear medicine and what potential contributions he or she might make to it, this book can certainly be recommended. The practicing physician in nuclear medicine will find, however, that in his own area of specialization the book is already somewhat dated.

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Engineering Economy: Analysis of Capital Expenditures

Author	Gerald W. Smith
Publisher	Iowa State Press (1979)
Pages	579
Price	$22.95
Reviewer	Daniel F. Hang

Having taught from several engineering economy texts, I like much of Smith's approach, especially his treatment of income tax considerations. The book can provide the engineering student with an excellent foundation from which he can make an engineering economic analysis. Likewise, a practicing engineer can use the book to brush up on his engineering economic fundamentals, perhaps learn a few new ones, and find sufficient analysis technique to evaluate even the most complex project.

The nuclear engineer who needs to make an economic study for the most part will be dealing with a fission or fusion system. In either case, expenditures of investment capital and cost are spread over a wide period of time ranging from years before plant operation to years after shutdown. These expenditures may be made on the federal, industrial, and/or investor-owned regulated utility level where economic parameters that enter into the decision-making process are not at all alike. An engineer must