

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

MEDICAL RADIONUCLIDES

Medical Radionuclides: Radiation Dose and Effects. Proceedings of a symposium held at the Oak Ridge Associated Universities, December 1969. Ed. by R. J. Cloutier, C. L. Edwards and W. S. Snyder. Pp. ix + 528. Illustrated. \$3.00. Oak Ridge, Tenn.: US Atomic Energy Commission. 1970. Available from Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information, Springfield, Va., USA.

This symposium contains papers presented under three headings: (i) mathematics for calculating radiation dose from radionuclides administered to a patient; (ii) distribution and retention of radionuclides in patients; and (iii) biologic effects of radionuclides.

The arguments for and against the use of radionuclides are clearly presented and the important political, economic and social motivations behind the many campaigns for both the growth and restriction of radiation in its many forms are placed in perspective. It stresses the fact that an important role for all of us dedicated to the proper future development of nuclear medicine will be to participate in these activities so that appropriate perspective will remain and so that the health of our citizens will continue to be enhanced by our efforts.

T.F.

INHALATION THERAPY

Principles and Practice of Inhalation Therapy. By J. A. Young, B.A., A.R.I.T. and D. Crocker, M.D., C.M. Pp. 363. Illustrated. \$10.95. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1970.

In the preface, the authors rightly comment that there is a need to train medical and paramedical personnel in the practice of 'inhalation therapy'. The book contains useful information and is of interest to nursing and paramedical personnel.

It is, however, a most disappointing book from the viewpoint of the physician, anaesthetist or paediatrician. The contents contain nothing new and are presented in an uncritical manner, in that procedures and equipment are described without any indication or assessment of their advantages or disadvantages. The reader learns little or nothing of the authors' personal experience or opinions.

The advisability of administering atropine before suction in children (p. 296) is questionable. It is furthermore surprising to find no comment on the quantity and type of fluid or food, and route of administration, to be given to patients receiving mechanical ventilation or other forms of inhalation therapy. The book contains some useful tables and information, the illustrations are clear and concise and a series of most instructive drawings appear in the chapter on physiotherapy.

H.d.V.H.