

NMT Bookshelf

COMPUTER TECHNIQUES IN CARDIOLOGY

Lee D. Cady, Jr., editor, Marcel Dekker, New York 1979, \$45.00.

This fourth volume in a continuing series of biomedical engineering and instrumentation texts certainly gives a broad overview of computer applications in cardiology. The almost complete spectrum—from medical records and resting EKGs to nuclear medicine and cardiac catheterization—is presented. The text has the added dimension, in some chapters, of denoting the drawbacks and present deficiencies of computers and accompanying software, as well as their advantages. Each of the 13 chapters has an excellent reference list that can be used to explore one's area of interest in greater detail.

Cardiovascular nuclear medicine procedures represent only a small portion of the text. Thallium myocardial perfusion scanning is afforded a mere paragraph in Chapter Eleven. However, multiple gated equilibrium blood pool scintigraphy is nicely introduced in a whole chapter (Chapter Twelve).

In summary, while this text is certainly not intended to elevate the heart rate, it is put together well and contains a wealth of introductory information for anyone who is considering utilizing computers in many aspects of cardiology.

DANIEL N. DOUGLAS
Arizona Heart Institute
Phoenix, AZ

NCRP REPORT NO. 57: INSTRUMENTATION AND MONITORING METHODS FOR RADIATION PROTECTION

National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, Washington, DC, 1978, \$5.00.

This report gives excellent insight into fundamentals of survey and monitoring procedures, area and personnel monitoring methods, instrumentation, and radiation accident monitoring. It assists one in evaluation of a great variety of hazardous and potentially hazardous situations involving accidental or uncontrolled radiation exposures. It specifically tells the reader that in the event of a particular type of radiation problem, he should carry out the procedures then outlined in the sequence suggested. Unfortunately, the report does not tell the reader precisely how to complete all the procedures suggested. In order for one to follow the instructions given in this report, he would be required to have considerable knowledge and experience

in dealing with radiation protection and management problems. In any case, one would need in his possession all the other NCRP reports that are referenced throughout this report.

All things considered, I would recommend that along with the acquisition of this report, one should request a copy of all the NCRP reports referenced in this manual. There is definitely a great deal of useful information in this report that could be very helpful to technologists, physicians, and students as well. It would serve as an excellent library reference manual, and I recommend its acquisition.

HAROLD D. HODGES
Oak Ridge Associated Universities
Oak Ridge, TN

TEXTBOOK OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY

Paul J. Early, Muhammad Abdel Razzak, and D. Bruce Sodee, CV Mosby Co., St. Louis, 1979, 691 pp, \$26.95.

Every nuclear medicine department should have a copy of this text because it explains most aspects of nuclear medicine technology clearly and concisely. Divided into "Nuclear Science" and "Clinical Nuclear Medicine", the text features particularly good discussions of counting and imaging considerations, the principles of radiation detection, and computer fundamentals. Basic physics in general is well explained, but simplification of some complex concepts, such as modulation transfer function, results in confusion to the student.

Information on quality control and operational concepts of dose calibrators, as well as radiopharmaceutical quality control, is disappointingly minimal. Two minor problematic points noted are a definition of quenching that omits application to liquid scintillation counting and an error on page 65 stating that 1.2% of Co-60 decay is by the second beta. The reader will also find that his knowledge of in vivo and radioimmunoassay procedures will be better served by use of more specific texts.

In spite of criticisms noted, every technologist, student technologist, and resident should have easy access to this book. It is very useful as a review for the NMTCB examination.

PATRICIA WEIGAND
Veterans Administration Hospital
Philadelphia, PA