the articles trace the development of the field from its origin in the physical sciences through its early development as a branch of medicine. Included in the volume are important papers by Rutherford; Geiger and Muller; Hevesy and Hofer; Joliet and Curie; Fermi; Meitner and Frisch; Anger; and Yalow and Berson. All of the papers represent major, often revolutionary, contributions.

An introductory historical essay by Marshall Brucer puts each of the scientific papers in perspective and provides continuity albeit in an irreverent manner.

The review makes one appreciate each part of the puzzle that eventually meshed to produce nuclear medicine as we know it. New insights and a sense of pride could overtake the reader unless he is careful.

PATRICIA WEIGAND

AN INTRODUCTION TO RADIATION DOSIMETRY

S. Lovell, Cambridge University Press, New York 1979, 116 pp, $18.50.

Although the author describes this text as an elementary introduction, I find that he presumes some amount of background knowledge from the reader. The eight chapters include information on ionizing radiations and their interaction with matter at the atomic level and in bulk; dosimetric quantities and units; measurement of luminescent and photographic dosimetry; and radiation protection. These chapters are well written and include many graphs, line drawings, and formulae to aid in explanation. Modern units of dosimetry have been used throughout, making the overview of radiation protection (using grays and sieverts) a challenge.

An experienced technologist will find that this text provides relatively sophisticated adjunctive knowledge in the areas of physics and chemistry; this knowledge, however, is not so esoteric as to be totally removed from nuclear medicine technology. Many of the concepts and definitions in nuclear physics that I memorized years ago are elaborated upon and made more meaningful.

It is disappointing that the author does not examine the subject of radiation protection at greater length. His readable style could perhaps have consolidated much of the obscure information currently available.

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