

*continued from previous page*

ing, and a special discussion on the disposal of liquid scintillation wastes. The book would not serve as a practical source book except for those intently involved in liquid scintillation applications, but with over 125 internationally renowned contributors, the book is a wealth of state-of-the-art knowledge and experience. Information dealing with liquid scintillation applications in industry, environmental, and nonbiomedical areas of research are beyond the scope of the average nuclear medicine department. However, the student can obtain a broad overview of the principles and multiplicity of applications of liquid scintillation counting and from this standpoint the book has a place on the nuclear medicine library bookshelf.

CHRISTIE BURKHEAD  
Georgetown University Hospital  
Washington, D.C.

**PERCEPTIONS OF RISK: PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON RADIATION PROTECTION AND MEASUREMENTS**

National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, Washington, DC, 1980, 191 pp.

This publication is a compilation of papers, lectures, and speeches documenting the theme "Perceptions of Risk" as presented at the 15th annual meeting of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements held March 14-15, 1979, in Washington, DC.

This book is a kaleidoscope of past, present, and future approaches for the assessment of the risks and hazards of ionizing radiation and its perceptual values to the human race. It gives excellent insight into controversial issues related to ionizing radiation—for example, discussions on the cost, benefits, risks, and hazards of nuclear energy in medicine, industry, science, military applications, power, transportation, etc.

The contributing authors are clearly concerned about safeguards in the nuclear industry, and many offer their ideas on how to go about analyzing or developing new methods to better evaluate the risk/benefit uncertainty.

For example, instead of measuring benefits and hazards using monetary units as benefits, and fatality and morbidity as hazards, one scientist suggests that as an alternative, we should translate benefits into lives that have been extended or saved against hazards as lives lost.

It was interesting to note one particular contradiction in the text regarding the public's ability to perceive risks. One author notes that the public does have the ability to perceive such risks as x-rays and airline travel; another declares the public is not able to perceive risks until a time of crisis.

In addition to the material presented by its distinguished group of authors, this book includes a panel discussion with questions from other distinguished sci-

entists and guests, a scientific briefing session, reports from three selected scientific committee activities—Scientific Committee 1 on Basic Radiation Protection Criteria, Scientific Committee 39 on Microwaves, and Scientific Committee 40 on Biological Aspects of Radiation Protection Criteria—and finally, a lecture given by Lauriston S. Taylor, Honorary President of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, entitled "Organized Radiation Protection—The Past Fifty Years."

The book contains a great deal of history as it reviews the early attempts (1913-1979) by concerned scientists to establish protective codes for radiation workers. However, the basic contribution to its readers is centered around the current theories of risk versus hazards of the utilization of ionizing radiation. Anyone with an interest ranging from the litigation of contested applications of nuclear energy to its developmental processes in the laboratory would benefit by having a copy of this publication in his library. Students, scientists, physicians, and technologists should obtain a copy of this publication as it clearly illustrates the sincere efforts of dedicated scientists working together to make nuclear energy a more useful and acceptable tool for the needs of the future.

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

**SINGLE PHOTON EMISSION COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY AND OTHER SELECTED COMPUTER TOPICS**

Program Committee: Ronald R. Price, David L. Gilday, and Barbara Y. Croft, Society of Nuclear Medicine, New York, 1980, 244 pp, \$29.50 (\$20.50 SNM members)

This soft-bound text consists of 21 papers representing the proceedings of the Tenth Annual Symposium on the Sharing of Computer Programs and Technology in Nuclear Medicine, which took place in January 1980.

It provides an overview of single photon emission computed tomography as well as descriptions and evaluations of specific techniques and systems. Various types of collimators are discussed and compared, as are performance specifications of assorted instruments and computers.

In general, the text needs proofreading to remove typographical and syntactical errors (e.g., article 1) and to collate hand-written corrections (e.g., article 20). Also, the figure legends tend to blend into the text, making the reading of complex material more complex.

Nevertheless, technologists involved in this field will find this a valuable reference. Others will find parts of it interesting reading and indicative of future trends.

PATRICIA WEIGAND  
Veterans Administration Medical Center  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania