Book Reviews


This is a new volume in the now well established Karger Progress Series. Neurosurgery has made great advances in the last 20 years, and it becomes more and more difficult for any one person to master the flood of original publications in numerous languages. It is to meet this situation that the editors have decided to embark on the publication of ‘Progress in Neurological Surgery’, in English, at the rate of one volume per year. Each volume will consist of a relatively small number of chapters, dealing with a particular subject, and giving a comprehensive resume and critical appraisal of the subject and of the international literature. The present volume deals with brain tumours, and contains a number of excellent survey chapters: Raimondi (Chicago): Ultrastructure and Biology of Brain Tumours.—Jefferson and Hill (Sheffield): Echo-Encephalography.—Planiol (Paris): Gamma-encephalography.—Horst and Conrad (Zurich): Radioisotope Scanning.—Owens (Buffalo): Chemotherapy.—Pool and Kamrin (New York): Treatment by Surgery and Radiation,—and finally Mundinger (Freiburg): Treatment by Radioisotopes.—Most radiotherapists with extensive experience in brain tumours will probably disagree with Mundinger’s conclusions that the interstitial use of radioisotopes in infiltrating brain tumours represents a real progress or is superior to external radiotherapy. It seems also radiobiologically inadvisable to give large doses of 6000–7000 r in a single session.

In conclusion, this volume constitutes an excellent reference work and should be of value not only to neurosurgeons, but also to neurologists, radiotherapists, and others.

H. C. Sims, London-Geneve


In the Preface, the author writes that the pattern of this book has been inspired by Paterson’s classical Textbook of Radiotherapy, and he quotes him: ‘The presentation of a definite outlook is of more value than the discussion of different principles and practices. It does not mean to imply that it is the only way, or the best, or the most correct method, but may leave the reader with something concrete.’

It is a pleasure—for a former Assistant of Paterson—to review this book. Its aim is ‘to give a sequential expose of the place of radiotherapy in the management of malignant diseases of the various anatomical sites’; and in this the author has well succeeded. As the preface implies, the major part of the book is based on the practice and methods used at the Anderson Hospital and Tumour Institute, Houston, University of Texas; and present and former members of the Anderson Staff have contributed and collaborated. The author has invited in addition several British and Canadian Radiotherapists to contribute several chapters. All the contributions are of a high standard, and some chapters are outstanding. No doubt, future editions will bring modifications, and one might suggest to include also a separate chapter on tumours of bone and soft tissues, which are dealt with rather shortly in the chapter on childhood tumours.
In conclusion, this is an excellent, and stimulating Textbook of Radiotherapy, which should be in the possession of every trainee in radiotherapy, and be studied by every radiotherapist.

H. Clive Sims, London-Geneve

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J. Bouchard: Radiation Therapy of Tumours and Diseases of the Nervous System (Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia 1966, 244 p., $ 11.50).

The author, Professor of Radiotherapy at McGill University and at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, has based this monograph on a series of 788 patients with primary brain tumours, 151 pituitary tumours, and various other lesions of the nervous system, treated by radiotherapy and accurately followed up. It is the fruit of 25 years close collaboration with the Montreal Neurological Institute.

After an introductory chapter on the radiobiological effects on the nervous tissues, where our views regarding radiosensitivity have undergone a radical change in recent years, the author discusses indications and contraindications for radiotherapy, treatment methods, and clinical care of patients. The treatment results are analysed in detail, dealing successively with the various histological types of intracranial gliomata, non gliomatous tumours, and tumours of the peripheral nervous system. A special chapter is devoted to brain tumours in children.

This comprehensive book, written from a clinical viewpoint, shows the increasing role, and the encouraging results, which radiotherapy plays to-day; and at the same time it stresses the importance of close cooperation between neurosurgeon and radiotherapist in the management of tumours of the nervous system.

It is a timely, and outstanding publication, which should be studied by all radiotherapists, neurosurgeons, and neurologists concerned.

H. C. Sims, London-Geneve


Electron therapy has become in recent years of considerable interest in the radiotherapy of malignant disease. The European Association of Radiology, under the chairmanship of Prof. Zuppinger, arranged this very timely Symposium in Montreux, Switzerland, in order to survey our present knowledge and to evaluate the future possibilities.—

The various aspects of electron therapy are discussed in over 100 communications from European and American contributors: Physics and Dosimetry, Radiobiological Effects, and Clinical Applications. It would be impossible to review the communications in detail, but the whole Symposium is of the greatest interest to all Radiotherapists, Hospital Physicists, and Radiobiologists; and Prof. Zuppinger and his collaborators should be congratulated on having arranged this Symposium, and afterwards edited the present book.—

H.C. Sims, London-Geneve

VARIA

Announcement of the Tenth International Cancer Congress

May 22–29, 1970, in Houston, Texas Under the Auspices of International Union Against Cancer


F. Further particulars: Secretary General

Tenth Congress: Murray M. Copeland

M.D. The University of Texas M.D.Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute
6723 Bertner Avenue
P. O. Box 20465
Astrodome Station
Houston
Texas 77025.