

Book Reviews

Diagnostic Radiology: Supplement V/1 to Encyclopedia of Urology. Edited by L. Andersson. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer 1977. pp. 199, 88 figs. DM 98. - (subscription price DM 78.40).

This is a three chapter supplement. The topics are Radionuclides in Urology (J. U. Schlegel from Tulane University at New Orleans), Urological Ultrasonography (G.R. Leopold and L. B. Talner from California University at San Diego), and Percutaneous Puncture Nephrostomy (I. Fernström and L. Andersson from the Karolinska Sjukhuset, Stockholm). There has been rapid progress in all three subjects over the past 5-10 years, and it is delightful to have this charted by well-known experts in each field. Such reviews have a dual aim, not always easy to reconcile: to tell the urologist/nephrologist/radiologist what has been going on, and to teach him the new techniques for use on his own home ground.

The radionuclide chapter exemplifies some of the difficulties. It is an all-embracing review, glancing at bone, lung and vein scanning in addition to its main emphasis on renal work. At 80 pages it is the longest chapter, and includes over 400 references. Its stance is plainly a fighting one: to convince the dullards that the radioisotope scan is a much more appropriate investigation than the intravenous urogram for many patients. This renal function v. structure battle will no longer be a problem for the discerning reader of this volume, but it could be that he will have some difficulty in putting into actual practice what is preached here. The author is mainly concerned with his own technique of 131 I hippuran study, which is illustrated with a number of selected case reports in the text. Everything is clearly based on a wealth of experience - the phrase "it is our considered opinion" recurs through this chapter. I wish the reader had been let in more closely on the precise make-up of this experi-

ence, but it could well be argued that the pointers are all there in the references.

The Leopold and Talner chapter on ultrasound is shorter, and very good indeed. There is a technical introduction, followed by a succinct review of the fields where ultrasound has made a decisive impact on urological practice. Older bistable (black/white) and newer gray-scale pictures are shown alongside the relevant radiographs, all splendidly annotated, a fine teaching demonstration in its own right. The case for urological ultrasound is clearly made and not overstated - I know of no better primer.

Fernström and Andersson on Percutaneous nephrostomy are also delightfully to the point, taking the reader carefully first through the steps of their technique, and then its application. They favour a lateral approach to the kidney, and use a combination of the sheath/trocar and guide wire methods. The authors write as physicians, not technicians, about "--- the dubious value of palliative measures in advanced malignant disease. They should be practised with discernment and without over-enthusiasm". This needs saying when the radiologist's nephrostomy is in danger of being seen as an automatic resort in ureteric obstruction by pelvic tumour. There is a useful, honest final section on complications of the procedure.

Ignoring a useless section Author Index, a rearrangement of each of the three chapters' reference lists, this book costs about 13p. a useful page. It is therefore expensive, but I think worth it.

Thomas Sherwood

The Tumours of Genito-Urinary Apparatus, Clinical, Scientific, Experimental and Therapeutic Advances: First Course. Held at the International School of Urology and Nephrology 1976. Pavone-Macaluso, M. (ed.), pp. 320. Palermo: Cofese Edizioni 1977.

This book is the proceedings of the Urological Cancer "Teach In" held at the International School of Urology and Nephrology, Erice, Sicily, under the direction of Professor Pavone-Macaluso in 1976. It is recommended for those who wish to update their knowledge of urological cancer and all the English articles are easily comprehensible and well referenced. There is a section on urological oncology, tumours of the kidney, tumours of the bladder and finally tu-

mours of the prostate. Eleven of the 39 articles are in Italian and this will limit the use of this book. The concept that controlled clinical trials in urological cancer are necessary and that European cooperation will yield answers is part of the philosophy underlying the course at Erice and it is to be hoped that any future course will also be published.

T. B. Hargreave