
Atomic Energy in Medicine. *K. E. Halnan*, M. D. Philosophical Library, Inc., New York. First edition, 1957. ix+157 pp. \$6.00.

This delightfully readable volume provides an excellent survey of the uses of atomic energy in the medical field. The first chapter, "Introduction to Atomic Physics and the Nuclear Reactor," is especially valuable in that it is short, concise and requires only minimal knowledge of chemistry, physics and mathematics for adequate understanding and introduction to what follows. The subsequent chapters deal with the biologic effects of ionizing radiations and the medical diagnostic and therapeutic uses of the various radioactive isotopes and high energy particle accelerators. Since this book is written by a Britisher, it naturally emphasizes the uses and experience with which the author is most familiar. This does not detract from its usefulness, but indeed, makes it of additional value to the American reader.

Particularly apropos of the present concern about radiation exposure from medical uses of x-ray and isotopes is Chapter 10, "The Problems and Hazards of Radiation." This subject is dealt with in a factual way devoid of the emotionalism of most articles presently available for public consumption. The author concludes with a brief prediction for the future of medicine in the atomic age and describes the character of the hospital to be built in 1984.

There is no detailed bibliography; however, the author has appended a list of articles and books suggested for further reading on the subject. This book should prove of most interest and value to those individuals engaged in scientific disciplines, whether closely or remotely allied to medicine, who wish an introductory survey of the many and varied peaceful uses of atomic energy in attempting better to alleviate human suffering. Also, those engaged directly in this particular field will find much of value here, especially if they are called upon to lecture to lay audiences and find difficulty in simplifying their discussion for ease of communication.

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