

Book reviews

Protection contre les radiations. Manuel pratique. Par J. D. Abbat, J. R. A. Lakey et D. J. Mathias. 249 pages, 3 plates, 44 illustrations and 35 tables. Masson et Cie, Paris 1963. 36 NF.

This is a translation of an English book, about which the present reviewer wrote in this journal (Vol. 58, p. 160, 1962): "— — — considerable attention is devoted to methods and equipment to prevent exposure of personnel to radiation from radioisotopes, while protection against roentgen rays is more briefly treated. The organisation and methods of medical control, supervision of work and monitoring of personnel and localities are discussed, and large parts of the ICRP recommendations are reprinted. The subject is treated in a rather elementary way — — — the book may on the whole be recommended as a first introduction. A number of nomograms and tables for the approximate calculation of shields, etc. seem to be of practical value."

The translation follows the original rather faithfully, but where differences are noted, they are seldom improvements. However, the points where the text is impaired only concern details, and in general the above opinion on the English book also applies to the French version.

Sven Benner

SONDERAUSSCHUSS RADIOAKTIVITÄT, Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Dritter Bericht bis Mai 1963. 131 Seiten, 22 Abbildungen und 14 Tabellen. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart 1965. Preis: 16.80 DM.

The present book is the third in a series of reports from the West German Special Committee for Radioactivity. The two earlier were briefly reviewed in the May 1959 and April 1960 issues of this journal.

The results of German measurements of radioactive contamination of air, water, soil, foodstuffs, and human subjects during the period from 1955 to the autumn of 1962 are reported. Radiation doses to the population from natural sources, contamination of the biosphere, and various other sources of radiation are evaluated, and the ensuing hazards for various types of radiation injury are discussed. The Committee recommends a coordination of current measurement activities pursued by various institutes, a systematic public information activity, pre-planning of protection measures to be taken in case of a significant increase of biospheric contamination, and the initiation of research programs on unsolved questions in physics, chemistry, and radiobiology. There is finally a brief introduction to the elements of radiobiology and a short glossary of terms.

While much more modest in volume and scope than the U. N. Radiation Committee reports (to which there are frequent references), the book contains much useful information and should be of considerable interest to those concerned with these matters.

Sven Benner