

BOOK REVIEWS

Kinmonth, J.B.: The Lymphatics. Surgery, Lymphography and Diseases, of the Chyle and Lymph Systems. 2nd Edition, 1982. 428 pp. (Edward Arnolds Ltd., London) 67,50 £, ISBN 0-7131-4410-6

A few months prior to his untimely death, *John B. Kinmonth* completed the second edition of his well known textbook. It is dedicated to his wife who collaborated very actively and compiled the index. The title has been slightly modified in order to emphasize that diseases of the chylous system are also covered. However, this is merely a superficial detail, almost every chapter was rewritten and expanded, reflecting the tremendous experience of *John B. Kinmonth* and his group and the progress made since the publication of the first edition in 1972.

The chapters on lymphography are concerned with the normal anatomic appearance as well as every aspect of pathology involving the lymphatics. The physiology of tissue fluid balance and the contractility of lymphatics is dealt with in a separate chapter. The reader almost always senses the first-hand experience of the senior author and his coworkers. The current knowledge of primary and secondary lymphedema, including diagnostic and therapeutic considerations, is presented in a superb way. Everybody familiar with the work of *John B. Kinmonth* would expect to find in his textbook a most detailed description of surgical treatment of lymphedema; this is the case, of course, but conservative methods of treatment are discussed at an equally high level. The textbook also includes new data on heritability of some of the primary lymphedemas and new insight into the basic histologic changes in lymph nodes of lymphedema patients. In summary, the second edition of *John B. Kinmonth's* textbook "The Lymphatics" is a **m u s t** for the clinical and basic lymphologist. It is the bequest of one of the foremost leaders in this medical subspecialty which has been so much influenced by his ingenious work. The quality of the illustrations and printing corresponds well to the high standard of the scientific content. Since many of the new contributions have been written by members of *Dr. Kinmonth's* group it can be assumed that the work will be continued in his tradition.

P.E. Peters, Münster

Lüning, M., M. Wiljasalo, H. Weissleder (Hrsg.): Lymphographie bei malignen Tumoren. Mit Beiträgen über Computertomographie, Ultraschallanatomie und endolymphatische Radionuklidtherapie. 2., überarb. Aufl., 1983. 391 S., 320 Abb., 92 Tab. (Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart-New York/Lizenzausgabe). Geb. DM 248,-; ISBN 3 13 540602 4

This is the second edition of a textbook first published in 1976. The editors succeeded in updating the content without significant increase in volume. Several chapters have been added, e.g. those dealing with computed tomography and ultrasonography. Others have been drastically shortened, completely rewritten or thoroughly revised. Twelve new authors from all over the world contributed to the second edition. It is quite interesting to compare the conclusion parts of several less common applications of lymphography. In 1976 neck and mamma lymphography were rated as ... promising new developments needing further research, while in 1983 the same methods ... carry very little, if any, value for routine application. Most of us certainly agree to that statement and many would apply similar harsh criticism to other aspects of lymphography still recommended (e.g. lymphography in lymphedema). It is very hard, indeed, to write a textbook on imaging of the lymphatic system these days, since the diagnostic approach is changing so rapidly. The editors and authors did their best in offering the readers a complete survey containing many now historical aspects of lymphography as well as current knowledge. One has to get accustomed to the positive roentgenograms (bones black) and the inverse sonograms (cystic lesions white), however, besides that little inconvenience the image quality is good. The second edition of "Lymphography in Malignant Tumors" can be recommended to radiologists and oncologists in German speaking countries. As it's first edition it is very likely to become one of the standard reference sources in the field.

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Volume covers

Blue cloth with stamping for volume 16 (1983) will be available in February 1984 at DM 19,80.
