

by the committee. The detailed scientific evidence upon which the summaries are based is packed into eight technical annexes, four of which are found in volume I (A, Environmental radiation; B, Doses from medical irradiation; C, Doses from occupational exposure; D, Miscellaneous sources of ionising radiation), and the remainder from volume II (E, Genetic effects of ionising radiation; F, Effects of radiation on the immune response; G, Experimental induction of neoplasms by radiation; H, Radiation carcinogenesis in man). The general format of the report follows that of previous ones, the subject matter being divided into numbered paragraphs for easy cross-reference. In spite of this, continuity is maintained and the text is very readable.

It is necessary that one bears in mind the purpose for which the report is written, and that it is not intended to be a textbook of pure and applied radiobiology. However, these reports do form an excellent general introduction to the fields covered, and give a good lead into the more recent developments and literature. Experienced scientists may not always agree with some of the conclusions reached in their own speciality, nor on the weight given to some pieces of evidence, but, in the main, I found the basic problems which surrounded many controversial issues were discussed very fairly and thoroughly. In this respect, a thoughtful reading of the Annexes provides one with a rather clear picture of areas where more information is needed.

Together these volumes form a veritable mine of information and, in the light of today's rising prices, I consider that the ratio of benefit from reading to price of book is high.

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