biological effects of radiation are described well in the physics and clinical sections of the book. The principles of treatment and radiation dosage are given, and there follows chapters on cancer in specific sites. Information is given on tumour types, investigations, clinical features, treatment and prognosis. Radiation techniques are described and the reactions that may occur from radiotherapy. There are diagrams of megavoltage treatment plans for many sites. The role of surgery in certain types of cancer is indicated, but there are no details of surgical treatment. Hormones and cytotoxic drugs are mentioned where applicable, but there are also separate chapters on hormone treatment and cytotoxic chemotherapy. A short chapter suggests the present place of radiotherapy for non-malignant disorders. The reviewer regrets the omission in this edition of a chapter on the duties and responsibilities of a radiographer.

The book is well produced, but soft covers will shorten its library life. The type is clear, there is a good index and there are numerous diagrams. Many photographs and radiographic reproductions have been omitted from this edition, no doubt as an economy measure. The text has been updated and covers a wider field than previously, so matching the requirements of the present-day radiographer. The book will continue to be invaluable for therapy radiography students, and each should possess a copy. Nurses, medical students and junior doctors interested in radiotherapy and oncology should find it informative, and the physics section will be useful to medical physics technicians.

M. B. Duthie

Ultrasound in Cancer. Ed. B. B. Goldberg (1981). Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone. 223 pp. £12.95 net.

This is the 6th volume in the series Clinics in Diagnostic Ultrasound, a series designed to provide clinician and ultrasonologist with an up-to-date account of potential uses of diagnostic ultrasound. In this volume there are contributions from experts in the various sub-specialities of diagnostic ultrasound, each author giving a brief outline of techniques available; the ultrasound appearances of different tumours; and the role of ultrasound relative to other diagnostic modalities in his particular area of interest. Inevitably, with a variety of contributors, the style and presentation varies throughout the book, but is generally good.

In all chapters the different types of tumours encountered and their ultrasound appearances are fully described. The chapters on biliary tract, retroperitoneum and paediatrics are rather brief, but this is probably intentional as these areas are covered more fully in other volumes of the series.

The quality of illustration varies through the book; the chapters on liver, paediatrics and breast are particularly well illustrated, and the explanatory line diagrams which accompany the ultrasound images of the eye are extremely helpful. The alternation between black on white and white on black images in some chapters is a little confusing, but this is a matter of personal preference.

In order to make the best use of diagnostic ultrasound, to-day’s clinician needs to know how accurate the technique is in each situation, and confronted with so many new complex imaging techniques he also needs some guidance regarding the place of ultrasound in the diagnostic work-up of his patients. Because of the many variables involved, the assessment of accuracy can be difficult. Some of these difficulties are outlined in the first chapter, but it was a pity that in some chapters no indication at all of the potential accuracy was given. The place of ultrasound in the diagnostic work-up of patients is well covered in many chapters with helpful algorithms in the sections on liver and breast, but sadly lacking in others.

Chapter 13, “Therapy”, was perhaps a little out of place in a series on Clinics in Diagnostic Ultrasound, but extremely interesting and stimulating nevertheless.

In summary, a good, reasonably priced book which executes well the difficult task of providing a concise review of the potential uses of ultrasound in the diagnosis of tumours.

I. Isherwood

Perspectives in Steroid Receptor Research. F. Breziani (1981). New York: Raven Press. 316 pp. $40.80 net.

Raven Press have produced this book from papers given at the Sorrento satellite meeting to the Hormones and Cancer Meeting in Rome in Autumn 1979. It will interest people working in the hormone-receptor field.
A number of the papers are reviews of work previously published elsewhere, but it is useful to have all the ideas and experimental details collected in one volume. Some chapters describe basic research into the mechanics of steroid-hormone binding. Others are devoted to receptors in normal and pathological tissues. As usual, breast cancer is the disease most extensively covered and there are detailed analyses of the incidence and relevance of oestrogen and progesterone receptors in different sub-populations of patients.

The book provides a useful up-date of current thinking in steroid-receptor research, and will be useful to newcomers to the field as well as to the old hands.

D. Barnes