

References

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BOOK REVIEW

Radiobiological Protection. First European Symposium on Rad-Equivalence. Proceedings of the Seminar on Radiobiology-Radiation Protection. — Orsay, France, 24—26 May 1976, Commission European Communities, Luxemburg 1977, 265 pp., price DM 28.

The aim of the organizers of this seminar was to bring together investigators engaged in the study of toxic and genetic effects of ionizing radiation and in the possible protection from radiation injury. As an ever-increasing variety of chemical compounds are constantly introduced into our environment, the seminar also dealt with genetic effects of chemical pollutants. 24 lectures published in the Proceedings either in full or condensed are divided into 3 main parts. The first part deals with dose-effect relationship with emphasis on small doses (8 lectures). The results indicate that there is no evidence for a threshold for mutation response following exposure to ionizing radiation or chemical mutagens. The following 4 lectures are headed: Notion of risk and related quantitative data. The results demonstrate that in spite of various tests for mutagenic screening, we do not yet know how to reliably interpret the data with respect to safety of man. The last section of the Proceedings includes papers on the problem of establishing an equivalence between the "dose" of a chemical mutagen and a dose of radiation on the basis of the effects produced on a certain biological test system. However, no clear-cut definition of the Rad-equivalence could be given. In a survey lecture on the evaluation of environmental mutagens Prof. Sobels recommends the establishment of an "International Commission on Protection against Environmental Mutagens".

The Proceedings will be of value to all interested in the genetic risks of radiation and chemical pollutants.

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