

Book Review

METASTASES. MEDICAL AND SURGICAL. Melford W. Thewlis, with a foreword by Hubert A. Royster. Charlotte Medical Press, Charlotte, N. C. 1944. 230 pages, 13 illustrations. Price \$5.00.

The contents of this book are divided into six sections or chapters under the following headings: I. General Considerations. II. Neoplasms. III. Infections. IV. Infectious Diseases. V. Miscellany, and VI. Regional Metastases.

The first section is a brief general discussion of the subject of metastasis. The others consist of lists of the primary site of the disease process, organs to which it may metastasize, and areas or organs from which it may have come. No written explanation accompanies these lists. There are three full-page illustrations.

The general considerations section is filled with misleading or erroneous statements such as "Sudden hemiplegia . . . may be due to a small neurofibroma of the spine, which in turn may be due to metastases from other areas, especially the lungs." "Fibrosarcoma rarely causes metastases." "Adenocarcinoma of the breast rarely causes metastases"—to mention a few of many.

The illustrations are too small, poorly drawn, and not explained by any text.

The lists of primary sites, areas to which a disease process may spread, and areas from which it may have come are puzzling to the person trying to read the book.

For instance, under "Adamantinoma" are listed

- A. Hypophysis
Jaw, especially lower jaw
Lung
Lymph-nodes
Nasopharynx
Orbit
Pituitary gland
Tibia

C. Rarely metastasizes. Slow growth.

- To: Glands, cervical
Lung
Ovary
Tibia

Does this mean the author believes this tumor to arise in all the sites listed under A? Why does he list hypophysis and pituitary separately?

It is not hard to find many mistakes in this section too. The inclusion of infections and infectious diseases as one-third of a book on metastases is surprising to one who is accustomed to consider the term virtually synonymous with "cancerous metastases."

To sum up, the book is difficult to understand, full of errors, and consequently of little value.

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