Quesne, Milne, Alwall, Dent); V, "Renal share in volume control of body fluid" (Borst, Hamburger, Black).

Almost every paper is a valuable summary of an active area of modern renal physiology, pathology, or morphology. While much of the material stands in the literature, it is served here in a series of thumbnail sketches that are commendable for brevity, lucidity, and documentation. In format, each presentation is followed by a typographically distinct section containing the discussion.

The general excellence of the whole makes it invidious to draw attention to selected, unfavorable aspects. It is with no intent, therefore, to plant a seed of disaffection that we dispute the treatment accorded to renal volume control. The renaissance of interest in the kidney as a regulator of body fluid volumes is reflected in its coverage, at least nominally, to the extent of 20 percent of the symposium. However, the fundamental biology of volume regulation such as outlined by Henderson and others is nowhere acknowledged, much less clarified; and no one comes to grips with this slippery problem. The papers and discussions are agreeable enough in summarizing facts but do not go far toward an understanding of the subject. It might have been more enlightening if, for example, Heller's censure of the term *volume receptor,* instead of being allowed to evaporate, had been examined critically in discussion.

The Kidney is an attractive book, printed on good paper, carefully edited, properly indexed, and fairly priced.

A. V. WOLF

Army Medical Service Graduate School

The Moon Puzzle. A revived classical theory correlating the origin of the moon with many problems in natural science. N. O. Bergquist. Grafisk Forlag, Copenhagen, 1954. xiii + 378 pp.

The author gives a comprehensive survey of what he considers to be the consequences of the following theory. The origin of the moon was caused by a cosmic collision; the birth of the moon occurred at the end of Lower Cretaceous time and caused the great break in continuity at this time observed by both geologists and paleontologists.

The story unfolded by Bergquist is fascinating but often gives the impression of science fiction rather than of science. There is a practically complete lack of quantitative mathematical argument (frankly admitted by the author). And the multitude of effects that he attempts to explain leads one to think of the quotation "Methinks he doth protest too much."

A few detailed criticisms—which are invited by the author explicitly—may follow here. Page 39: It is nowadays generally believed that the development of spiral nebulae is one toward and not away from orderliness (see, for example, von Weizsacker, *Z. Astrop.* 1948). Page 69: East Indies is an obsolete term and the correct term is Indonesia. Page 366: If the moon originated in the way proposed by the author, the calculations of Jeffreys (*The Earth*), of the moon's age, are relevant and they lead to an age of at least 2000 million years in contradiction to the age inherent in the proposed theory.

D. TER HAAR

Department of Natural Philosophy,
St. Andrews University

An International Bibliography on Atomic Energy. vol. 2: *Scientific Aspects.* Suppl. No. 2. United Nations, New York, 1953 (U.S. Distr.: Columbia Univ. Press, New York). vii + 320 pp. $3.50.

This is a classified listing of 7997 periodical articles that appeared during 1951–52 on fundamental nuclear science, physics and engineering of nuclear energy, biological and medical effects of high-energy radiation, isotopes in biology and medicine, and applications of nuclear physics in nonbiological sciences and technology. An author index is appended.

Gmelins Handbuch der Anorganischen Chemie: Selen (Selenium), System No. 10, pt. A, sec. 3, 1953. xviii + 184 pp. Illus. Paper, $26.64.

Gmelins Handbuch der Anorganischen Chemie: Bor (Boron), System No. 13, supp. vol., 1954. vii + 253 pp. Illus. Paper, $33.60; cloth, $34.80.

Gmelins Handbuch der Anorganischen Chemie: Gold, System No. 62, pt. 2, 1954. v + 306 pp. Illus. Paper, $40.32

Gmelins Handbuch der Anorganischen Chemie: Gold, System No. 62, pt. 3, 1954. xxi + 558 pp. Illus. Paper, $74.88. Edited by Gmelin Institute. Verlag Chemie, Weinheim, W. Germany, ed. 8. (U.S. Distrib.: Walter J. Johnson, New York, and Stechert-Hafner, New York.)

In rapid succession the various sections of Gmelin have been making their appearance, bringing up to date this classic handbook of inorganic chemistry. The sections here considered total approximately 1300 pages and reflect credit on those responsible for these revisions.

Section A3 on selenium is devoted to the selenium rectifier and the selenium photocell, subjects that have increased in interest in the past 15 years. The literature in this section is covered to 1953.

The present volume on boron is the first complete and modern monograph of this element and its compounds. It is a supplementary volume to that on boron published in Gmelin's handbook in 1926 and covers the literature for the years 1925–1950. Its subject index contains references to both these volumes. A feature of the new volume is the inclusion of the advances that have been made on borane and its related compounds, such as the borazoles, borazens, borazanes and their alkyl derivatives, alkyl boron compounds, alkyl boric acids, the boroxoles, boric acid