been notable. Only through such joint authorship could so authoritative a volume have been produced. There is no common index, and cross references are few. Nevertheless, owners of volume I will certainly wish to own volume II, and members of the new group who have been led, because of special interests, to purchase volume II, will soon find a strong compulsion to make their sets complete.

ARTHUR W. MARTIN, JR.
Division of Biological and Medical Sciences, National Science Foundation

Veterinary Toxicology. Formerly *Lander's Veterinary Toxicology.* R. J. Garner. Bailliere, Tindall and Cox, London, 1957 (order from Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore). 415 pp. $7.50.

This unillustrated book deals with a study of the origin, properties, and effects of poisons, with their detection, and with the treatment of their effects. This is a complete revision of the third edition of *Lander's Veterinary Toxicology,* as revised by Nicholson, which was published in 1945. The new author, Garner, refers to Nicholson very frequently in the voluminous references, for which, as the book shows, Garner has done an enormous amount of research. Much of the original text has been rewritten and rearranged. The botanical description and illustrations of plants have been deleted from the section on poisonous plants. Newer subjects, such as chemical pesticides and radioactive substances, have been added and given proper consideration and importance by the devotion of a section to each. The data on chemical analysis for poisons have been brought together in another section.

There is much documented evidence, with references, to support what the author says, and it is well arranged. There is a good index, which makes the book valuable as a ready reference. Although considerable space is very appropriately devoted to the toxicology of both chlorinated hydrocarbon and organic phosphorus insecticides, it does not seem as though the list of references is correspondingly long, and I believe that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's *Technical Bulletin 1122* on these subjects is worthy of reference. In the section on poisonous plants there is no mention of greasewood and halogeton, two oxalic acid plants, or of milkweed and locoweed, all of which have received considerable publicity in American literature. There also is little information given about a number of poisonous plants important in the United States, such as larkspur, arrow grass, fescue, and astragalus. However, the book brings together a wealth of information, arranged in such a way that it is easy to find. Moreover, a book on this subject has been urgently needed. In the changing field of agricultural chemicals, with new chemicals reaching the farms, the animals, and the animal feeds, veterinary toxicological problems may appear or be suspected in connection with numerous agricultural practices. Veterinarians, research workers, students, and others interested in toxicology will find this book of value.

HOWARD W. JOHNSON
Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

On the Utility of Medical History. Monograph I, Institute on Social and Historical Medicine, New York Academy of Medicine. Iago Galdston, Ed. International Universities Press, New York, 1957. ix + 73 pp. $2.

Iago Galdston, one of the country's most articulate promoters of the writing of medical history, has written or edited many volumes dealing with current medical issues in which the historical background is fully set forth because he believes that medical history, by illuminating the present, provides a basis for judgment about the future. To inquire whether this belief is well founded and, if it is, how the potential utility of medical history may be more fully exploited, he organized the conference or institute reported in this book. Other contributors besides himself are George Rosen, Owsei Temkin, Gregory Zilboorg, Erwin H. Ackerknecht, and Paul Schrecker. In a series of essays they define and discuss purposes, values, goals, and uses of medical historiography, teaching of medical history, and medical history itself.

After finishing the essays, my first reaction was to write a review article on the utility of medical history, exploring the distinction between the *value* of history studied for itself and the *utility* of history as an aid to solving current problems—reasserting the cultural and humane values in history which the essayists seem reluctant to expound and urging medical historians in search of self-justification to admit their interest in the subject for its own sake and to say less of the utility of medical history, which cannot be proved, lest they promise more than they can produce. Lacking space, I set my essay aside unfinished. But the reader may judge from this how thought-provoking I found the book.

Although the uses of history in general have been discussed more fully by a number of other historians, and although earlier articles by Temkin, Rosen, and Ackerknecht on the usefulness of medical history and its role in medical education are as good as if not better than their contributions here, anyone who is particularly interested in medical history may gain new insights from these stimulating essays. The book's chief value, however, will be realized if it is able to reach and influence the unconverted who can profit from it most. If it does, it will have performed a useful function.

JOHN B. BLAKE
Division of Medical Sciences, Smithsonian Institution

Metabolic Aspects of Transport Across Cell Membranes. Q. R. Murphy, Ed. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 1957. xxiv + 379 pp. Illus. $7.50.

Movement of substances across the boundaries of living cells is obviously necessary for their continued existence. In recent times it has become apparent that some substances do not always move simply down concentration gradients or gradients of chemical or electrochemical potential; that there are net movements against such gradients is now indeed a well-established fact. Elucidation of the mechanism underlying this type of transport and the way in which it is coupled to required energy sources is the current goal of much physiological research and is the central topic of this book.

The volume contains the reports and discussions of a symposium held at the University of Wisconsin in August 1955. Brief specific mention of the principal topics will indicate the scope of the subject matter: regulation in fluid exchange (E. F. Adolph); ion exchange in clinical medicine (D. C. Darrow); principles and theories of transport (H. H. Ussing); movement of water and electrolyte across intestinal epithelia (M. B. Visscher); transport of ions in skeletal muscle (E. J. Conway), in cardiac tissues (S. Weidmann), in vertebrate nerve (A. M. Shanes), in renal tubules (R. W. Berliner); gastric acid secretion—the present position (R. E. Davies); gastric acid secretion—metabolic aspects (H. W. Davenport); and gastric acid secretion—compatibility of theories with electrophysiological findings (W. S. Rehm and W. H. Dennis). Additional brief reports preface each discussion.

Areas of discussion are: (i) ion transport in muscle and nerve, (ii) ion transport across renal epithelium, (iii) transport of organic compounds across renal epithelium, (iv) gastric acid secretion, and (v) correlation of clinical problems and basic information relating to membrane transport. Transport in plant cells is not considered.