clinic on patient care; the financial aspects of medical practice; and the social process of introducing new medication into the office practice of medicine.

It is clear from this brief and incomplete descriptive summary that this book is a tasty *smorgasbord,* with something for everybody.

The book makes no attempt to show in what systematic relationship the concepts of medicine stand with respect to the concepts of the behavioral sciences. One would expect this attempt to be made before one could accord a distinctive scientific status to the varied areas of study discussed in these chapters. Nor does the book present a truly panoramic overview of what is offered as a distinctive scientific field. Rather, from the standpoint of medical sociology as science, we are shown a collection of intriguing snapshots taken from different vantage points in a relatively unexplored but fertile landscape.

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Radioactive Isotopes in Clinical Practice. Edith H. Quimby, Sergei Feitelbert, Solomon Silver. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, Pa., 1958. 451 pp. Illus. $10.

This book presents in its three parts one of the best introductions to the field of clinical isotope application that has yet appeared. The selection of the material and the arrangement of the problems, as well as the formulation and presentation of the facts, reflect the immense experience gathered by the authors in presenting this course material to about 225 students in eight classes since 1954. Consequently, the basic needs of the student and of the clinician who wants to include these important techniques in his work are met with great understanding.

Part 1 ("Basic physics"), written by E. Quimby, covers the basic facts of nuclear physics, nuclear radiation, interaction of radiation with matter, biological effects, and radiation hazards and their avoidance. It is stimulating reading because of the clear and precise formulation of the problems, spiced by short but dynamic sketches of the historical background. The sketch on the discovery of the neutron is unique—it illustrates the high spirits of physicists in these years and appeals to the creative imagination of the student. The chapter on waste disposal and removal of contamination is a useful conclusion of part 1.

Part 2 ("Instrumentation and laboratory methods"), written by S. Feitelbert, gives a comprehensive survey of modern equipment and methods for measuring amount, uptake, and distribution of radioactive isotopes in vitro and in vivo. It emphasizes the qualitative as well as the quantitative aspects of the different techniques and recommends—especially in connection with autoradiography—some personal instruction and practical supervised experience. A chapter on laboratory design gives welcome hints to the newcomer.

In part 3 ("Clinical applications"), a thoughtful contribution by S. Silver, the reader finds valuable information on the use of the more common isotopes. Five of the 14 chapters are devoted to problems involving I^{131}; the rest, to applications of P^{32}, Fe^{59}, Cr^{51}, Au^{198}, Sr^{90} and Co^{60} in the diagnosis and treatment of various diseases. The preface to part 3 and the well-selected references given with each chapter are welcome features for the future research investigator and give him guidance for supplementary reading in works highly recommended by the authors of this book.

At a time when the importance of tracer and isotope techniques in biology and medicine is underscored by the bestowal of the Atoms for Peace prize on the Nobel prize winner G. de Hevesy, the student and the clinician will welcome this book, and the instructor will use it advantageously for classroom and course work. In addition, specialists in other fields, such as radiology, gynecology, surgery, physiology, and radiation biology, will get information on ways of applying isotope techniques in solving their respective problems.

Some errors, such as that on page 30 (a discrepancy between the figure legend and the text) are more a challenge to the student than a handicap, forcing him to check his knowledge and to approach his work critically.

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A Source Book in Greek Science. Morris R. Cohen and I. E. Drabkin. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 2nd printing, 1958. xxi + 581 pp. Illus. $7.50.

This book, first published in 1948, has become a standard text for those wishing to study the history of Greek science. It provides in English translation all the most frequently cited original passages from classical authors. For more than ten years it has been the greatest boon to teachers and students in elementary courses, and with the rapid spread of these courses it is apparent that it will continue to be invaluable for several decades to come. In 1956 the whole series of these "Source Books in the History of the Sciences" was taken over by Harvard University Press from McGraw-Hill Book Company, and it is a pleasure to compliment the new publisher on the usefulness of this printing.

The second printing differs little from the first. A few typographical errors have been corrected, and a short bibliography of recent publications has been added. In the "General Editor's Preface" (page v) one is relieved to find that all mention of a millenial plan which, a safe dozen years ago, provided for the publication, about 1960, of a volume which would contain the most important contributions of the major sciences from 1900 to 1950 has been deleted. More seriously, one could have wished for a few more editorial changes. For example, the highly misleading scheme on page 130, showing a central ellipse produced by epicycle and deferent, should have been omitted. Not only was it never used in classical astronomy and never could have been used, but it confuses the student through its apparent similarity to the noncentral Kepler ellipse orbits.

I would like to take this opportunity to point out that the similarly excellent *Source Books* in astronomy and in chemistry are also now available; it is to be hoped that the new publisher will speed the reprinting of other titles in this list and seek to extend the series further.

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The Chemical Behavior of Zirconium. Warren B. Blumenthal. Van Nostrand, Princeton, N.J., 1958. vi + 398 pp. Illus. $11.

This will be welcomed as the only recent book devoted to the chemistry of zirconium. Enough information on zirconium has become available to make it feasible to develop a systematic chemistry of the element, and this is the announced aim of the present book. On the whole, the author has succeeded very well. He discusses first the element zirconium under such headings as history, occurrence, extraction, and theory of zirconium chemistry. He then discusses interstitial solutions and intermetallic compounds. The remaining seven chapters discuss other zirconium compounds in the following order: halogenides, oxides and zirconates, zircon and complex silicates, sulfatozirconic acids and related compounds, compounds with other inorganic acids, carboxylates, and other organic compounds.

In discussing the theory of zirconium