Although the hypothesis presented has much experimental data to support it, the authors are quick to point out the limits of our present knowledge and indicate the areas where further investigation is needed. In their own words the ideas offered are at least tentative if not temporary. Whether or not the theories set forth will ultimately be proven correct is less important, for the reader comes away with a greater knowledge and understanding of bone physiology.

This monograph is a must for research workers in the field of bone and electrolyte metabolism. The sections on the physical sciences may be less useful to the clinician, but those who are interested in keeping abreast of the times will find it quite valuable.

HOWARD LEVITIN

MOMENTS OF DISCOVERY. Edited by George Schwartz and Philip W. Bishop, with an Introduction by Linus Pauling. New York, Basic Books, 1958. 2 vols. xvii+xi+1005 pp.; over 50 illustrations. $15.00.

The anthologist must of necessity have a certain courage, for he undertakes to select those writings which seem to him most representative, most interesting, most important. To decide upon the best works of a poet or a literary period is difficult enough; to define successfully and to the satisfaction of all readers the high points in the written record of all science is nearly impossible. The editors of Moments of Discovery, then, set themselves a large task.

Selections from the writings of nearly ninety individuals appear in these two volumes. Beginning with Hippocrates, the great men of science, and some not so familiar, set forth their observations and ideas. The major fields are well represented, both in variety and in historical perspective. The last and latest quotation is from J. Robert Oppenheimer. One cannot complain seriously about the list of the men and the woman (Marie Curie) chosen to represent scientific thought.

But what was selected is another matter. "True creativity," says the Preface, "... is revealed by the ability to crystallize meaningful concepts out of observations which at first glance are chaotic and patternless." This ability to synthesize is a hallmark of the productive scientist, and the circumstances wherein the synthesis is achieved, often in a flash of intuition, the actual "Moment of Discovery," are an exciting problem for study. This reviewer can never read without awe and exaltation William Harvey's simple description of how he first recognized the circulation of the blood—"... I began to think whether there might not be a motion, as it were, in a circle. Now this I afterwards found to be true..." This passage appears in Volume Two, as does Theobald Smith's great paper on Texas cattle fever, Pasteur's on the treatment of rabies, and Harrison's observation of the growth of the neuron and invention of tissue culture. Ben Franklin's sprightly letter on "The Kite Experiment" tells clearly how he captured the "electric fire." But too often the pages selected describe, not The Moment, with its realization of discovery shining from scrawled laboratory notes, but instead the great contribution as seen in the retrospective
and solemn evaluation of later weeks or years. For men like Linnaeus and Darwin, whose conclusions seem to have been reached only gradually and laboriously, perhaps there was no Moment of Discovery; certainly the passages from their writings are pedestrian.

Particularly interesting is a section on "Technology before Science," with quotations from George Sarton and V. Gordon Childe. Here is an all too brief treatment of the technology that came before science, for example the "improvisations of a farmer remote from industrial facilities. . . . An interesting example of this is found in the solutions to the problem of how to keep a gate closed in a field fence. There are many ingenious and effective designs to be seen that have rarely been repeated and certainly never patented" (page 102).

Each passage by a scientist is introduced by the editors' historical and biographical sketch, the sketches in turn being grouped and discussed in terms of broad categories. The background material is interesting but sometimes diffuse. A number of illustrations from original works are reproduced, not always well. Although the book in general is remarkably free of typographical errors, the dates given for the birth of Robert Hooke (page 387) and Pierre Curie (page 888) and for the death of Francesco Redi (page 405) and William Harvey (page 575) do not agree with those cited by other authorities. There is a rather brief index.

For the authors' aim for this book there can only be admiration; one feels much disappointment that the product of twenty years of work is so uneven.

THOMAS R. FORBES

ATRIAL ARRHYTHMIAS, DIGITALIS AND POTASSIUM. By Bernard Lown, and Harold D. Levine. New York, Landsberger Medical Books, Inc., 1958. 222 pp. $6.90.

This little monograph is a most exhaustive and well-documented account of the effects of digitalis on the atrium with particular (in fact almost exclusive) relation to paroxysmal auricular tachycardia with A-V block. The evidence for the relationship of this arrhythmia to digitalis intoxication, either due to excessive doses of digitalis or to deficient cellular potassium, is presented in great detail. Both the clinical features and electrocardiographic distinctions of this arrhythmia are well discussed. Problems of differential diagnosis and therapy are ably covered. There is an interesting section at the end of the book on the theoretical basis for this particular manifestation of digitalis intoxication involving the contrasting vagotonic and direct myocardial effects of digitalis as well as the relationships of acetylcholine and potassium to digitalis action.

This text is valuable particularly for its emphasis on paroxysmal auricular tachycardia with A-V block as a special manifestation of digitalis intoxication. It is designed particularly for the cardiologist and electrocardiographer but would certainly be of considerable interest to internists in general who are particularly concerned with the cardiovascular field.

ALLAN V. N. GOODYER