tion. His first-rate and first-hand working knowledge of geology and paleontology as well as his clear perception of the weak arguments in Darwin’s theory raise this book far above the level of similar endeavors of the period.

Dawson attempts to salvage his faith by careful analysis of these arguments. He demonstrates, for example, that the fossil record does not provide support only for the Darwinian interpretation of evolution, and also that without a clear statement of the mechanism by which adaptive mutations in one generation are transmitted to succeeding ones the notion of “survival of the fittest” collapses. Because of these failures, Dawson concludes that Darwinism not only did not, but could not, explain the origin of species. For him this failure represented the triumph of teleology or design in nature. This was crucial for Dawson because the argument from design provided the link between God and nature so necessary for those intent on harmonizing religion and science. Without that pivot, God could be logically banished from the operations of nature and Dawson rejoices in believing he has staved off this threat.

The cause for such joy disappeared the year after Dawson’s death with the rediscovery and publication of the Mendelian patterns of inheritance by DeVries and Correns. This and subsequent research in genetics provided the “missing link” so eagerly sought or feared by the nineteenth century antagonists of science vs. religion for now the path was open to finding the mechanisms behind evolutionary processes.

In closing, I would add that the publication of this and similar reprints by Neale Watson’s various enterprises provide a great service to historians of biology and medicine.

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**MEDICINE UNDER CAPITALISM.** By Vicente Navarro. New York, Prodist, 1977. 230 pp. $5.95 paper, $14.95 cloth.

Vicente Navarro is a well known critic of the Western social, political, and economic systems, who in this volume takes on the establishment doctrines of medical care. His evaluation is, to quote Karl Marx, “... uncompromising in the sense that [his] criticism fears neither its own results nor the conflict with the powers that be” [1]. In fact Navarro takes a clearly Marxian approach in analyzing the forces which determine the health care system as we in the United States recognize it. This in turn mandates viewing the health care system not as an independent phenomenon whose malfunctions are idiopathic, but rather as an integral part of the capitalist structure, whose services are distributed as inequitably as are other resources.

This holistic view is at the core of Navarro’s thesis and he gives substance to it by offering probing case studies of the medical organization in Allende’s Chile and in the rural United States. The chapter on Chile is particularly insightful as it depicts the struggle of one nation to break from a stagnant health care network held back by generalized underdevelopment. In a following chapter Navarro describes the health sector of the United States in highly political terms which support the notion that it is inexorably linked to the class structure of the capitalist state.

It should be noted that this work is clearly more than an exercise in rhetoric. It is surely intended to awaken the ideas dormant in some of our minds, dulled by an
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onslaught of articles and books which take the management approach to health care and suggest managerial solutions. The stylistic tone is distinctly that of a political idealist.

Even a cursory perusal of this text can give the reader an illuminating glimpse of one man’s alternative concepts of medical care; a thorough reading will be truly thought provoking. Whether one agrees or disagrees with Navarro’s analysis one thing is certain—that he or she will do so vehemently.

1. Letter to Arnold Ruge, 1844

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HORMONES IN HUMAN BLOOD—DETECTION AND ASSAY. Edited by Harry N. Antoniades. Cambridge, Mass, Harvard University Press, 1976. 810 pp. $49.50.

This text is divided into four general parts: (1) plasma Proteins and plasma fractionation; (2) hormone Radioimmunoassay; (3) polypeptide hormones; and (4) nonpolypeptide hormones. The first section outlines the various chemical techniques for isolating proteins such as affinity chromatography and isoelectric focusing—techniques which are used for the isolation of purified hormones for iodination and antibody production. Most books on radioimmunoassay do not cover this area at all or do so only superficially, although the availability of highly purified antigen for radiolabeling is the backbone of any radioimmunoassay procedure. The second section presents an overview of antibody production, radioiodination of proteins, kinetics, and the various modes of separating antibody bound antigen from free antigen. The one deficiency in this section is the lack of detail on the characterization of antisera in terms of suitability for radioimmunoassay, i.e., affinity for antigen, titer, and cross reactivity with similar antigens.

The section on polypeptide hormones describes the various methods of assaying essentially all of the clinically important hormones. This includes both bioassay and radioimmunoassay methodology and is written in an easy to understand manner. Insulin assay techniques are treated in especially great detail, probably reflecting the particular interests of the editor. The last section on nonpolypeptide hormones, although less complete than the other three sections, provides helpful information.

All in all, this is a valuable text especially for the individual who has limited experience in radioimmunoassay methodology.

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PHOTOCHEMISTRY AND PHOTOBIOLOGY OF NUCLEIC ACIDS. Vol. I CHEMISTRY. Vol. II BIOLOGY. Edited by Shih Yi Wang. New York, Academic Press, 1976. 430 pp. $44.00 each.

These two volumes are for experts whose major interest is in reasonably complete coverage of the extensive literature on the photochemistry of nucleic acids and their components. Despite the title, at least 80% of the two volumes is devoted to photochemistry, with only rather scanty coverage of photobiology. The twenty-one chapters in the two volumes are written by experts in the fields covered. Most of the authors seem to be interested mainly in comprehensive coverage. The