hospital crisis is not too dissimilar from Chicago’s or Boston’s or Philadelphia’s. The system of fragmented, duplicative, “pluralistic,” inadequate health services discriminates against the poor. More money won’t help. Two medical care systems won’t help. The competition will inevitably preserve the discriminatory pattern. Surely the perceptible, rational analytic intelligence brought to bear on these problems might have provided us with more substance!

The very evidence of the chapters underlines the contradictions in Professor Ginzberg’s 14th point: that national health insurance will not assure access to quality health services. It won’t, but what will? Can we obtain a commitment to a national health service with equal access to all citizens? If so, how? If not, what are we to look forward to? The sort of guerilla warfare against the middle class medical institutions that has already begun against the schools?

A reviewer owes his readers a capsule recommendation: for this book, mine would be, read it. The medical care field has little enough of documented experience of large scale system analysis. This collection of essays may not provide relative experiences uniformly applicable to the problems of other cities. But it is a fascinating descriptive exercise.

GEORGE A. SILVER
Department of Epidemiology
and Public Health,
Yale University School
of Medicine

HORMONES AND THE ENVIRONMENT. Memoirs of the Society for Endocrinology #18. Edited by G. K. Benson and J. G. Phillips. New York, Cambridge University Press, 1970. xvi, 629 pp. $22.50.

This expensive volume represents an impressive compendium of current work in comparative endocrinology, which was presented at a symposium held at the University of Sheffield, September 2–5, 1969 in honor of Dr. Ian Chester Jones. The theme of the symposium was “Comparative Endocrinology: the contribution of endocrines to adaptation problems.” Guest commentators, Roy O. Greep and H. A. Bern, agreed that, as with most symposia, the lively interchange of ideas that took place “at the bar” added a dimension to the formal presentations and discussions of the symposium which was impossible to capture in the book. Some of the flavor of this face-to-face interchange often appears in the discussions at the end of each chapter. Unfortunately, in this volume the discussions were either brief or unrecorded. The work presented is more a review of individual fields rather than new research. Since it is difficult to group such varied presentations around a central theme, the book has been divided into six sections: The Aquatic Environment, The Terrestrial Environment, The Integument in the Terrestrial Environment, The Biotic Environment, Neuroendocrine Mediation, and Temporal Changes in Endocrine Secretions.
Outstanding among the many fine chapters is that by Henderson et al. entitled "The Adrenal Cortex and Osmoregulation in Teleosts." This chapter does not introduce new concepts; it summarizes the relevant data on adrenocortical hormones in teleosts and the effects of these steroid hormones on composition and distribution of body fluids, renal function, branchial and gastrointestinal function, and the vascular system. The chapter by William Etkin on the endocrine mechanism of amphibian metamorphosis is superb. Dr. Etkin emphasizes that the adaptation of the animal determines which hormones are pressed into service and it is tissue responsiveness, not endocrine messengers, which changes in evolution. "Environmental Stimuli and the Mammary Gland" by Tindal and Knaggs, is an exquisite analysis of the suckling reflex. They review the neural background operative in the suckling stimulus and the ascending pathways for tactile information, nontactile stimuli such as body heat, and the additional facilitatory effects of auditory, thermal and other sensory modalities.

The chapter by J. Maetz, "Mechanisms of Salt and Water Transfer Across Membranes in Teleosts in Relation to the Aquatic Environment," discusses osmoregulation at the cellular and subcellular levels. He reviews the functional differences observed when teleosts living in hypotonic and hypertonic media are compared and the functional changes which the effecter-organs of osmoregulation undergo at the cellular and molecular levels when transferred to media of various salinities.

This book is highly recommended for those interested in comparative aspects of the evolution of endocrine organs and endocrine mechanisms and their relation to the resolution of adaptational challenges presented by a changing environment.

G. Virginia Upton
Department of Medicine,
West Haven Veteran's Hospital
and Yale University School
of Medicine

Modern Methods in the History of Medicine. Edited by Edwin Clarke. New York, Oxford University Press, 1971. xiv, 389 pp. $22.50.

New approaches for historians, are explored by 19 eminent writers, in 21 chapters of timely information. The chapter on historiography of ideas in medicine, for example, notes that the historian of science is concerned with the thoughts that refer to facts and theories, be they true or not; whereas the scientist is concerned with facts and theories, asking whether they are true or not.

Most of the methods and techniques described have been introduced into the history of medicine recently. The investigation of disease, the rise of automation,