found to be suffering from defined illness or disability. There are grave objections to screening for a disease for which there is no really effective treatment and, therefore, no possible benefit to the patient. It is a grave disservice to inform a person prematurely of the existence of disease for which no treatment can be offered. In greater or less degree these arguments centre around surveys for such conditions as diabetes and hypertension.

Allowing for the considerable repetition and the spoken rather than the written style, this is a useful collection of views of interest to both clinicians and epidemiologists.

W. MELVILLE ARNOTT

Radionuclides in Medicine. By C. F. Barnaby. (Pp. 170; 24 figures; 42s.) London: Souvenir Press. 1970.

This book is based on a series of papers which appeared in 'World Medical Electronics'. The author sets out to produce a book which will be of value in the instruction of medical staff in the use of radioactive isotopes. The routine use of radio isotopes for both diagnostic and therapeutic purposes is described. Much of the subject matter is covered at a superficial level but the use of radioiodine, the clinical use of radioactive iron and cobalt together with the legal aspects of the use of radionuclides are covered in some depth.

The book contains material which could mislead an absolute newcomer to the subject and it is doubtful whether the book will be of much value to workers well involved in the subject.

B. R. PULLAN

Elementary Radiation Physics. By G. S. Hurst and J. E. Turner. (Pp. 166; illustrated; 70s.) Chichester: Wiley. 1970.

The authors intend this book to be of use in college level physics courses in radiation physics for students of pre-medicine, pre-dentistry, biology and also as teaching material for introductory courses in health physics and radiological health specialties.

The first half of the book covers basic atomic and nuclear physics in a very clear and interesting way, producing excellent teaching material for any of the intended groups. The second half of the book deals with the calculation and measurement of radiation dose, the control of radiation exposure and some aspects of x-ray technology.

The last chapter covering the applications of radioactive isotopes is disappointing after the excellent standards set by the rest of the book, and the authors' description of the use of a Geiger counter for the measurement of thyroid and cardiac function would be misleading to anybody who did not know better. With this one exception, however, the book is clear and full of interesting and useful material and is an excellent book for students in this field.

B. R. PULLAN

La Trielina: Tecnologica Manifestazioni Morbese e Prevenzione. By Nicoló Castellino. (Pp. 103; 119 references; L 3000.) Milan: Franco Angeli Editore. 1969.

The greater part of this book is taken up with a review of the work of other researchers, who have investigated the metabolism and toxicity of trichloroethylene. The book is divided into sections dealing with the chemical and physical characteristics of this solvent, its industrial uses, metabolism and toxicology, together with an account of the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of poisoning. At the end, a full description is given of the laws and regulations in force in Italy. These require the periodic examination of workers in certain industries and provide for compensation in cases of intoxication. The section dealing with the industrial uses of the solvent is well written, there being a fuller description of processes than is usually found in reviews of this kind: this is particularly true in the case of dry cleaning. Almost 70% of the papers referred to were written in 1950 or afterwards, but only a few of the total number of references dealt with the work of Italian authors, in contrast to the review written by Canale and Cataldi in 1964, and therefore the work does not give such a comprehensive picture of the work done on trichloroethylene in this country.

In the section on metabolism the reference to the findings of Rubine, Scansetti, Trompee and Gaide (1959) is of particular interest. They demonstrated that the ambient trichloroethylene concentration correlates first with the level of trichloroethylene in the blood and secondly with the trichloroacetic acid level in the urine, a point about which there has been considerable divergence of opinion between different authorities.

The section on trichloroethylene toxicology includes the work of most authors investigating the effects of trichloroethylene on those occupationally exposed and of those investigating human and animal subjects of controlled laboratory investigation. Whilst acute and chronic poisoning are carefully described, and the concept of subacute poisoning is detailed, the possible part played by breakdown products in industry received scant attention. Similarly, there is little mention of trilene anaesthesia, which has provided experience of human acute exposure both to trichloroethylene of a known high degree of purity and to trichloroethylene containing a known contaminant such as dichloroacetylene, which used to result from the use of carbon dioxide absorbers and which had damaging results on the nervous tissue. Personal researches on 116 operatives working in 30 dry cleaners and 8 workshops repairing office machinery are described. In this the author confined himself to eliciting complaints, and there was no unexposed control group, which might have provided a comparison of the incidence of the symptoms and findings among workers not occupationally exposed to trichloroethylene. Although helpful in establishing the relationship of symptoms and findings to ambient trichloroethylene concentration and to trichloroacetic acid level in the urine, there is no great advance in the investigation of the effects of this solvent.

One of the concluding chapters of the book deals with the methods of estimating the metabolites trichloroacetic acid and trichloroethanol. Reference is made to the most