

**THE SEXUAL LABY-
RINTH OF NIKOLAI
GOGOL**

By Simon Karlinsky
Harvard, 1976, 333 pp. \$14
L of C 76-16486
ISBN 0-674-80281-0

The 19th-century Russian writer Nikolai Gogol (*Dead Souls, The Inspector General*) was a veritable cornucopia of psychological and sexual obsessions. Once the Victorian tendency to see him as an earnest realist and social critic began to wane after 1900, the Freudians went to work on him. They brought to light his flight from women and his self-described "inner filth" of homosexuality. One might think that there wasn't any need for a book on his "sexual labyrinth." Simon Karlinsky believed there was—and proves himself correct. Without regard for the conventions that stifled much earlier scholarship, he scrutinizes the tortured world of Gogol's mind and demonstrates the relevance of his personal Minotaur to his literary masterpieces. The resulting book is clear enough for the layman, erudite enough for the expert.

Science & Technology**A SCIENTIST AT THE
WHITE HOUSE: The Pri-
vate Diary of President
Eisenhower's Special As-
sistant for Science and
Technology**

By George B. Kistiakowsky
Harvard, 1976, 448 pp. \$15
L of C 76-19013
ISBN 0-674-79496-6

Duke University historian Charles S. Maier in his introduction calls this diary "a documentary contribution of the first rank." Ukrainian-born chemist Kistiakowsky served in the White House from July 1959 until Kennedy's inauguration—through nuclear-test-ban problems, Khrushchev's visit, the U-2 "incident," and other crises that kept him close to international politics. Charged, in effect, with helping Ike make policy for science and make science serve policy, Kistiakowsky faithfully recorded meetings, conversations, and maneuvers (his own and others). His acerbic, disarmingly egotistical journal entries make entertaining reading. For example: "Attended a luncheon at the Atoms for Peace Awards affair at the Academy and sat in exceedingly boring company. Had the mild satisfaction of embarrassing Bob Wilson, the new AEC commissioner, for whom I have no special love because of his views on science, nuclear test ban, etc. . . . he . . . asked if I had been in any way involved in the development of the implosion atom bomb during the war, so I