

## books OF THE WEEK

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**CELL-MEDIATED IMMUNITY:** *In vitro* Correlates—J. P. Revillard, Ed.—Univ. Park Press, 1971, 228 p., photographs, diagrams, \$14.50. Presents a detailed summary of the confrontation between the newly developed delicate tests for delayed-type hypersensitivity and their clinical application.

**DIALYSIS AND RENAL TRANSPLANTATION:** Proceedings of the Seventh Conference, 1970—J. Stewart Cameron, Ed., Daniel Fries and Chisholm S. Ogg, Assoc. Eds.—Pitman (Williams & Wilkins), 527 p., photographs, diagrams, \$22. Contains statistical reviews, clinical experience, metabolic studies, and papers on transplantations and demonstrations.

**DRUGS:** What they are, How they look, What they do—Frank Gannon, foreword by Edmund O. Rothschild, M.D.—Third Press (Viking Press), 1971, 182 p., photographs, \$6.95. Basic information in question-and-answer form, gives facts where facts exist, and controversy where controversy prevails, intended to inform on the basis of the best knowledge now available.

**THE LIVING CELL**—Oliver Gillie—Funk & Wagnalls, 1971, 216 p., color plates, photographs, diagrams, \$6.95. Gives the layman an up-to-date survey of what life is, the cell structure, reproduction, the chemistry of life, protoplasm, the evolution of microorganisms, embryos and cell specialization, and genetic mutation.

**THE MUTAGENICITY OF PESTICIDES:** Concepts and Evaluation—Samuel S. Epstein and Marvin S. Legator, foreword by Joshua Lederberg—M.I.T. Press, 1971, 220 p., diagrams, \$12.50. Monograph addresses itself to the importance of chemical mutagenesis in the human population and the value of reliable measures to decrease the spontaneous mutation rate. Includes tabulation and cross index of pesticides.

**NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE SOVIET UNION:** Their Use and Renewal—I. P. Gerasimov and others, transl. from Russian, ed. by W. A. Douglas Jackson—Freeman, 1971, 349 p., maps, tables, \$12.50. This report by three Academy members reflects the concern in official Soviet attitude toward improved resource utilization.

**PETROLEUM CONSERVATION IN THE UNITED STATES:** An Economic Analysis—Stephen L. McDonald—Johns Hopkins Press, 1971, 279 p., diagrams, \$10. Surveys the whole system of the states' approaches to regulation in the U.S. petroleum industry, examines the technical basis of petroleum production, the economics of well spacing, and develops an economic framework for evaluating the existing system.

**POLLUTION CONTROL AND THE MARINE INDUSTRY**—Joseph S. Ives, Jr., Ed.—Internat'l Assn. for Pollution Control, 1971, multi-paged, illus., paper, \$30. Proceedings of 1971 conference, topics discussed range from overview and forecast of federal and of state regulation of vessel discharges and spills, to ocean disposal of solid wastes, and analysis of marine pollution control market.

**THE RA EXPEDITIONS**—Thor Heyerdahl, transl. from Norwegian by Patricia Crampton—Doubleday, 1971, 341 p., 111 color plates, map, \$10. Describes the building of the papyrus boats and the two voyages which proved that the Atlantic could be crossed in reed crafts between Morocco and Barbados with the help of ocean currents.

## to the editor

### Alcohol and enzyme inhibition

The warning by Dr. Hugo Theorell of the Karolinska Institute in Sweden that 4-methyl-pyrazole is not a "cure for alcoholism" (SN: 8/7/71, p. 93) cannot be overstressed in my opinion. The article mentions current work on pyrazole first published about 1969 by Dr. Theorell, who reported inhibition of liver alcohol dehydrogenase, the enzyme responsible for first-stage metabolism of ethanol.

Since 1969, pyrazole has been used as a means of inducing true addiction to alcohol in laboratory animals, by maintaining abnormally high concentrations of ethanol in the animals' blood. True addiction (withdrawal symptoms) was previously more difficult to attain due to the rapid metabolism and removal from the bloodstream. It is the most serious form of alcoholism, and indicative of relatively permanent changes in the chemical balance of neuroreceptor sites in the brain and elsewhere where pharmacologically active substances react.

E. John Schoneberger  
B-J Co.  
Los Angeles, Calif.

### Quest to know

Evidently Mr. Gordon Lee sees a dichotomy where none exists (SN: 7/31/71, p. 72). Certainly the lunar Rover was a high-cost vehicle, but it was a pilot-research vehicle. The LRV made possible one of the most prolific scientific explorations ever attempted.

I agree that the Apollo program has been expensive. But, it is the fulfillment of past commitments—commitments wholly justifiable scientifically and politically. The priority of "how much, how fast" after Apollo 11 may be open to opinion, but the vast potential of studying it, are not open to opinion as far as I am concerned; they are self-evident consequences of man's insatiable quest to know more and go farther.

Ronald F. Smith  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

### Overpopulation

If the time, effort and worry concerning overpopulating the world (SN: 8/14/71, p. 114) were redirected toward teaching people, mostly by example, how to live peacefully with each other, the ultimate betterment of mankind would prevail.

Joseph T. Snyder  
Sagamore Hills, Ohio

Address communications to Editor,  
Science News, 1719 N Street, N.W.  
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