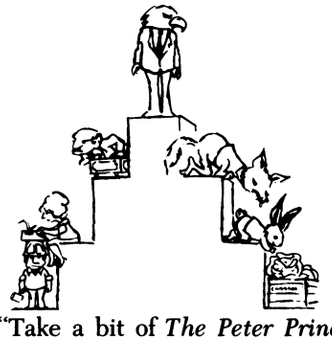
EGO NICHES

Harold J. Morowitz



"Take a bit of *The Peter Principle*, add a dash of *The Organization Man* and finally a touch of Robert Benchley and you have this droll sociological/anthropological book about people in a business environment."

West Coast Review of Books

Paperback $5.95 postpaid

RHYMING IN THE RIGGING

Collected in this volume are over a hundred sea poems, favorites of those salty souls who dream of wind and waves.

"One of the best anthologies of sea poems we have seen."

National Fisherman

Hardcover $11.00 postpaid

(Attractively bound in Sailcloth)

Check is enclosed for: 8-2-80

____ copies EN @ $5.95 _____

____ copies RR @ $11. _____

(Conn. residents incl. tax)

TOTAL _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

OX BOW PRESS

Dept. SN, P.O. Box 4045

Woodbridge, CT. 06525

BOOKS

BOOKS is an editorial service for readers' information. To order any book listed or any U.S. book in print please remit retail price, plus 50¢ handling charge for each book to **Book Order Service,** Science News, 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. All books sent postpaid. Domestic orders only.

LSD: My Problem Child — Albert Hofmann. The chemical that has provided a key to the human mind is discussed candidly and with philosophic insight by the well-known biochemist who discovered it. McGraw, 1980, 209 p., $9.95.

NARCOTIC PLANTS OF THE OLD WORLD: An Anthology of Texts from Ancient Times to the Present—Hedwig Schleiffer, Ed., introduction by Richard Evans Schultes. A readable and interesting choice of texts concerned with narcotic plants used in rituals and everyday life from classic and biblical times to the present (a sequel to the author's *Sacred Plants of the New World,* Lubrecht & Cramer, 1973, paper, $6.50). Lubrecht & Cramer, 1979, 193 p., illus., $12.50, paper, $7.95.

PLANTS OF THE GODS: Origins of Hallucinogenic Use — Richard Evans Schultes and Albert Hofmann. Scientific, historical and cultural information about the hallucinogenic plants of importance to many societies. Includes a lexicon of more than 90 plants, indicating where each hallucinogen is used, how it is prepared and how it acts. McGraw, 1980, 192 p., color/b&w illus., $34.95.

THE WONDROUS MUSHROOM: Mycolatry in Mesoamerica— R. Gordon Wasson. Illustrated with Pre-Columbian art, this book details the author's experiences with the mushroom ceremony and the relevance of hallucinogenic mushrooms to the various cultures of Mesoamerica. McGraw, 1980, 288 p., illus., paper, $12.95 (publication date Oct. 31). Also available from the publisher in a limited, collectors' edition, color plates, leather bound, numbered and signed, $525.

First New Calculus in 300 Years

Using a simple style and omitting all proofs, the creators of the new calculus have explained their theory in a self-contained book easily understood by anyone who has a working knowledge of elementary traditional calculus.

"Throughout, this book exhibits a clarity of vision characteristic of important mathematical creations." Professor D. P. MacAdam, Journal of the Optical Society of America.

The price of NON-NEWTONIAN CALCULUS is $15.70 postpaid. If for any reason you are not fully satisfied, you may keep the book and we shall send you a full refund immediately. Send your check or money order to:

Newton Institute

Box 240S, Rockport, MA 01966

. . . Sverdlovsk

Soviets say there was a major outbreak of gastrointestinal anthrax . . . . There's nothing on the face of that story that's patently wrong." In fact, says Meselson, "It could well be."

Meselson refers to a standard Soviet textbook, *The Course in Epidemiology,* which was translated into English in 1961 (Pergamon Press). According to that textbook, gastrointestinal anthrax is a serious problem in the Soviet Union. Moreover, the Sverdlovsk region sits on the edge of a high-risk anthrax zone. "Now this book's been sitting in the Harvard University library for years," Meselson says; "they [the Soviets] didn't slip into the library and stick it there a few weeks ago."

Another reason Meselson has not ruled out the Soviet explanation of the Sverdlovsk incident is his assessment of anthrax as a biological agent. He explains that the effectiveness of such a weapon would be unpredictable and cites one outbreak of anthrax in Philadelphia in which the source was traced to a factory processing goat hair. Victims of the disease were "one man who waited for his bus across the street [from the factory], but who wasn't a factory worker, and one lady who lived a mile and a half away," Meselson says. "It's a lousy weapon," he says of anthrax; "why would they [the Soviets] be messing around with it?"

In addition to knowing "of nothing which *definitively* rules out the Soviet explanation" of the Sverdlovsk incident, Meselson finds puzzling several aspects of the "worst-case" (biological-warfare plant explosion) explanation.

For example, all of the worst-case reports give a range of dates for the explosion. "That means that nobody heard an explosion — if you hear a 'boom' you look at the calendar and you know the date — and that the explosion is some kind of hypothesis," Meselson says.

Moveover, Meselson finds the reported time range for deaths in the anthrax affair inconsistent with the worst-case explanation. "It is claimed in all of the accounts that the cases continue to appear and people continue to die over a period of weeks and weeks," Meselson says. "With an airborne incident, the cloud goes by in a matter of minutes, and secondary infections after that would be either zero or negligible," he explains. The reported time period for deaths, therefore, seems more consistent with a continuous-source explanation, such as contaminated meat, says Meselson.

While Meselson finds flaws in the worst-case explanation of the anthrax epidemic, he nonetheless finds the incident disturbing. The anthrax affair "will cast a shadow that, unless cleared up, will have a discouraging effect on arms control effort," he says.

So, concludes Meselson, "It would do all parties good to get more facts out than they have so far given." □

Science Service, Inc. is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve, and extend access to *Science News.* www.jstor.org