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Getting Sued and Other Tales of the Engineering Life — Richard L. Meehan. Anecdotal readable essays by a geo-technical engineer on his education, socialization and professional experiences in the U.S. and around the world. Points out that an engineering career is no more dehumanizing than a career in, for example, medicine or law. Originally published in hardback in 1981, MIT Pr, 1983, 241 p., paper, $6.95.

Ideas of the Great Psychologists — Samuel Smith. An introduction to the principal fields of psychology from a historical perspective. Describes the contributions of great psychologists to the study of human behavior from the earliest time to the "present stage of research and experimentation." Har-Row, 1983, 306 p., $15.95, paper, $6.95.

Man-Made Life: An Overview of the Science, Technology and Commerce of Genetic Engineering — Jeremy Cherfas. Describes the achievements in this rapidly developing field. Explains for the reader with little scientific knowledge the discoveries, principles and processes that have enabled scientists to develop "man-made" insulin, vaccines, hormones and interferon. Issues of safety and responsibility are explored and the industry resulting from this new technology is examined. Pantheon, 1983, 270 p., illus., $15.95.

The Measure of the Universe — Isaac Asimov. The scale of the universe is difficult to comprehend as is the concept of an atom's size. Asimov, starting with familiar objects and using the metric system, explains measures of length upward in 53 steps to the boundaries of the visible universe, then downward in eight steps to the measure of a typed period. In the same fashion he explains volume, mass, density, pressure, time, speed and temperature. Introduces at each level fascinating facts that increase the reader's comprehension and also awe at the vastness of the universe. Har-Row, 1983, 339 p., $15.95.

Numbers: Their History and Meaning — Graham Flegg. This book was written to help the general reader understand what numbers signify, how they work and how they can be manipulated. Provides information about mankind's past encounters with numbers and how the various practical and theoretical problems that have been posed were tackled and either solved or evaded. These historical problems have been linked, whenever possible, with aspects of the concept of numbers as understood today. Schocken, 1983, 295 p., illus. $14.95.

Observing Earth Satellites — Desmond King-Hele. A readable guide to the methods for tracking the 5,000 or so artificial satellites in orbit around the earth, with emphasis on do-it-yourself visual observing. About 200 of the satellites are visible to the naked eye when conditions are right and about 2,000 can be seen with 7×50 binoculars. Van Nos Reinhold, 1983, 184 p., illus., $16.50.

The Scientific Management of Hazardous Wastes — C. B. Cope, W. H. Fuller and S. L. Willetts. Examines from British and American perspectives the results of recent research into the environmental aspects of the disposal of hazardous industrial wastes. Also looks at British hazardous waste legislation. The limits of our scientific knowledge are defined and the ways in which this knowledge is extrapolated and applied to hazardous waste management are discussed. Cambridge U Pr, 1983, 480 p., illus., $69.50.

Seabirds: An Identification Guide — Peter Harrison, foreword by Roger Tory Peterson. Written and illustrated by one who has traveled from the Arctic to the Antarctic and throughout the continents of Europe, Africa, Australia and the Americas, this book is intended to help scientists, mariners and amateur birders identify seabirds. The text and illustrations concentrate on plumage sequences and distribution, rather than the birds' biology. HM, 1983, 448 p., color/b&w illus., $29.95.

The Unexpected Vista: A Physicist's View of Nature — James S. Trefil. Explores various objects and events in everyday life to show how physicists look at the world and to illustrate the web of interconnectedness that encompasses all matter. Each exploration begins with something familiar, and ends, after step-by-step reasoning, in an "unexpected vista." By explaining the behavior of an ordinary refrigerator, the author makes clear the second law of thermodynamics and from there he contemplates the law's application to the final fate of the universe. Scribner, 1983, 209 p., illus., $14.95.