Books

The Body Victorious: The Illustrated Story of Our Immune System and Other Defences of the Human Body — Lennart Nilsson et al., translated from Swedish by Clare James. Magnificent photographs show the human body's defense system in action and the accompanying text explains its workings. This photographic essay also depicts the architecture of blood clots, the battles between white blood cells and invading bacteria, the damage resulting from rheumatoid arthritis, antibiotics in action as penicillin attacks a colony of bacteria, and what happens when killer T cells attack cancer. Delacorte Pr, 1987, 196 p., color illus., $25.

The Cult of Information: The Folklore of Computers and the True Art of Thinking — Theodore Roszak. This book is a critique of the place of computers in our lives, especially in our schools. The author is concerned with the "folklore" of the computer — the images of power and the fantasies and wishful thinking that have grown up around the machine. He points up the vital distinction between what machines do when they process information and what human minds do when they think. Originally published in hardback in 1986. Pantheon, 1987, 238 p., paper, $7.95.

Heart Attacks, Hypertension, and Heart Drugs — M. Gabriel Khan. The results of recent research information are presented to help the general reader understand how to prevent blood clot formation and heart attacks. This physician gives scientific as well as commonsense advice on exercise and stress. Outlines the various symptoms and signs of a heart attack and discusses the treatments used. Describes hypertension, which affects millions in the United States, and discusses nondrug management as well as drug treatment of high blood pressure. Rodale Pr, 1987, 333 p., illus., paper, $12.95.

The Life Era: Cosmic Selection and Conscious Evolution — Eric Chaisson. The author, in this sequel to his earlier book, *Cosmic Dawn*, argues that we now stand at the threshold of a new era, the Life Era, in which cosmic selection will replace natural selection and survival and extinction will be determined by the choices of humans, the highest evolutionary form we know. Atlantic Monthly, 1987, 259 p., illus. by Lola Judith Chaisson, $19.95.

The Living Isles: A Natural History of Britain and Ireland — Peter Crawford. Celebrates the splendor and diversity of the natural history of the British Isles. The author records here the changing British and Irish landscapes and wildlife from the last Ice Age to the present. This beautifully illustrated book includes a regional gazetteer which lists nearly 450 nature reserves and other sites which have been selected for the way they exemplify the changing landscapes of the British Isles. Originally published in Great Britain. Scribner, 1987, 320 p., color illus., $24.95.

Poisonous Plants of California — Thomas C. Fuller and Elizabeth McClintock. Describes California's native, naturalized and cultivated plant species that can be harmful to humans and animals. Explains how to recognize them, what parts of the plant are poisonous, where they are found and what symptoms they produce. A plant's poisonous qualities originate from chemical compounds including alkaloids, glycosides, resins and oxalates. The authors point out that these same compounds are also the source of many useful drugs. U of Cal Pr, 1987, 433 p., color/b&w illus., $25.

The Thorn in the Starfish: How the Human Immune System Works — Robert S. Desowitz. Explains for the general reader how the immune system works in sickness and in health, the strategies that can be used to get the best from the immune system and what might result from immunological research. Contains chapters on the history of immunology, AIDS and the problems of immunodeficiency, and the effects of smoking on the immune system. Norton, 1987, 270 p., $16.95.

Weather and Forecasting — Storm Dunlop and Francis Wilson. Designed to aid the general reader in recognizing the forms of weather in the temperate zones, understanding how they have been produced and forecasting what is likely to occur. It is important to remember, says the introduction, that all forecasts, professional or amateur, have their limitations but local knowledge will help to make them more accurate. Macmillan, 1987, 160 p., color/b&w illus., paper, $8.95.