

Books

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The Essential Asthma Book: A Manual for Asthmatics of All Ages — Francois Haas and Sheila Sperber Haas. This book, according to the foreword, is an attempt to bridge the gap between what doctors know about asthma and what patients need to know to cope with their disease intelligently. It is not intended as a substitute for the medical advice of physicians but rather as a guide to the patient to help correct any misinformation and stimulate questions about the disease, questions that any doctor should be happy to answer. Scribner, 1987, 298 p., illus., \$19.95.

Men Who Made a New Physics: Physicists and the Quantum Theory — Barbara Lovett Cline, foreword by Silvan S. Schweber. Tells the story of how quantum mechanics was constructed, the scientists involved and how its interpretation was put forward. Originally published in 1965 under the title *The Questioners*. U of Chicago Pr, 1987, 274 p., illus., paper, \$11.95.

North to the Pole — Will Steger with Paul Schurke. In March 1986, seven men and one woman set out by dogsled from Ellesmere Island, Canada, to reach the North Pole without resupply. In part they chose this approach to shed light on the question of whether Robert Peary reached the Pole in a similar fashion in 1909. The book is a fascinating account of this modern expedition, which covered over a thousand miles in 55 days, crossing the Arctic Ocean and enduring -70° F temperatures before reaching the North Pole. Times Bks, 1987, 339 p., illus., \$19.95.

Prescription Drugs: An Indispensable Guide for People Over Fifty — Brian S. Katcher. The author, who holds a doctorate in pharmacy, describes how aging affects response to drugs and offers some strategies for minimizing the risk of adverse drug reactions. The bulk of the book includes information on the drugs most commonly prescribed for those over the age of 50. For each drug, gives other names by which the drug is known, tells what the drug is supposed to do, discusses side effects, describes interactions with other drugs, alcoholic beverages and food, and tells how age affects the response to this drug. Atheneum, 1988, 357 p., \$22.50.

Starsailing: Solar Sails and Interstellar Travel — Louis Friedman. According to the author, we need to find ways to travel in space with less fuel. One possible solution, he feels, is to develop the solar sail, which uses no fuel at all. This book, by the scientist who directed the solar sail project at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, outlines the history of solar sailing and explains what solar sails are, how they work and why the author feels they offer such promise for the future of travel throughout the solar system. Also discusses the physics of solar sailing, the design and construction of solar sail spacecraft and the problems of solar navigation. Wiley, 1988, 146 p., illus., \$9.95.

The World of the Pharaohs — Christine Hobson, foreword by Thomas J. Logan. A beautifully illustrated guide to ancient Egypt. This book approaches the world of the pharaohs through the archaeological discoveries that slowly revealed this civilization, which lasted for three-fifths of the recorded history of the Western world. Thames Hudson, 1987, 192 p., color/b&w illus., \$19.95.

SCIENCE NEWS Wins 1987 Polk Award

SCIENCE NEWS is the recipient of the 1987 George Polk Award for Science Reporting. The Polk Awards, begun in 1948 and sponsored by Long Island University in New York, are considered among the most prestigious and coveted in journalism. This is only the eighth time in that 40-year period that an award has been given in the Science Reporting category.

SCIENCE NEWS was cited by the awards committee "for its comprehensive and reliable coverage of the latest research in all branches of science" and as "a publication that stands in a class of its own as the one truly comprehensive general science magazine around." An announcement of the awards describes SCIENCE NEWS as "a small weekly of 16 pages, including its covers. Its impact, however, is enormous. The publication presents consistently reliable and comprehensive coverage of all branches of science, and scientists look to it for its brief summaries of important new research in and out of their individual fields."

SCIENCE NEWS Editor Joel Greenberg will accept the award on behalf of the entire staff at a March 30 luncheon at the Hotel Roosevelt in New York City. Douglas Edwards of CBS News will read the citations at the presentations.

Overall, Polk Awards were announced for print and broadcast media in 14 categories in 1987. The 14 winners were selected from more than 600 nominations advanced by members of an advisory panel, news organizations and individual journalists.

In addition to SCIENCE NEWS, which was cited for its overall reporting rather than for a particular story or stories, the winners include: Foreign Reporting — Nora Boustany of The Washington Post for her coverage of the plight of Palestinian refugees and the trauma of Beirut; National Reporting — Mike Masterson, Chuck Cook and Mark N. Trahan of the Arizona Republic for an expose of the billion-dollar fraud and mismanagement by the Bureau of Indian Affairs; Metropolitan Reporting — The Charlotte Observer for its more than 500 stories, with repeated revelations, on the Jim Bakker and PTL scandal; Local Reporting — Ron Ridenhour of the New Orleans CityBusiness for uncovering a city tax scandal reflective of the corrupt system of doing business in

New Orleans;

Political Reporting — Knight-Ridder Washington Bureau for the general excellence of its political coverage and its particularly effective reporting on the Iran-Contra scandal; Financial Reporting — James B. Stewart and Daniel Hertzberg of The Wall Street Journal for their comprehensive and revealing articles on the stock market crash of Oct. 19 and its aftermath; Sports Reporting — Chris Mortensen of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution for a 110-story report on the subversion of amateurism by sports agents and college athletes; Magazine Reporting — Roger Rosenblatt of TIME for a masterful examination of the Soviet Union and its people and their differences from Americans; Foreign Television Reporting — Gordon Manning of NBC for his role in bringing to the network and to the public two remarkable projects: "Changing China" and "A Conversation with Mikhail Gorbachev; Network Television Reporting — CNN for its resourceful around-the-clock reporting and analysis of national and international news; Local Television Reporting — Margie Nichols of WSMV-TV, Nashville, Tenn., for an investigation of "medigap" fraud that preys on senior citizens; Radio Reporting — Larry Bensky of Pacifica Radio for his superb multi-role performance as organizer, anchor and commentator for Pacifica's gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Iran-Contra hearings; Career Award — Murray Kempton of Newsday in New York for his 45 years of journalistic achievement.

Past winners in the Science Reporting category are: Science Times, The New York Times' weekly science section, 1986; SCIENCE magazine's "News and Comment" section, 1981; the NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE, 1977; Alton Blakeslee of The Associated Press, 1951; George Keaney of The New York World Telegram and Sun, 1950; William Lawrence of The New York Times, 1949; Albert Deutsch of P.M., a New York City daily newspaper, 1948.

The George Polk Awards are named for the CBS correspondent who was murdered during the Greek Civil War in 1948 while trying to reach guerilla leader Markos Vafiades for an interview. The awards are based on recommendations from a panel of advisers composed of former winners, media executives, writers and academicians. □