## **Books**

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**Asthma:** The Facts — Donald J. Lane and Anthony Storr. An updated edition of this explanation of asthma for patients and their families. Describes what is known of the causes and mechanisms of asthma and how the disease manifests itself. All aspects of treatment are discussed with increased emphasis on preventive therapy. Oxford U Pr, 2nd ed., 1987, 188 p., illus., \$18.95.

Close Encounters with Insects and Spiders — James B. Nardi. Beautiful line drawings and interesting text by this entomologist introduce both adults and children to the fascinating world of spiders and insects. Iowa St U Pr, 1988, 185 p., illus., \$14.95.

Eye, Brain, and Vision — David H. Hubel. This well-illustrated book, written by a neuroscientist, is about how the brain handles visual information. It is concerned mainly with research done on the complex processes of vision between 1950 and 1980 by this Nobel laureate and his colleagues. Shows, among other topics, how scientists are mapping visual areas of the brain; examines the mechanisms by which we perceive color, depth and movement; investigates how vision develops in infancy and examines the consequences of early visual deprivation. Sci Am Bks (W H Freeman), 1988, 240 p., color/b&w illus., \$32.95

Natural History of the Antarctic Peninsula -Sanford Moss. Antarctica is the most environmentally hostile of all the continents - the coldest, the driest, the windiest and the iciest. Fewer forms of life inhabit it than any other continent. The seas that fringe Antarctica moderate its harsh climate enough so that life forms can be found near the coast. Nowhere are these organisms more plentiful than on the Antarctic Peninsula. This book, beautifully illustrated with line drawings, begins by describing the physical conditions - the geology and climate of the continent and the oceanography of the southern ocean that surrounds it. Traces the flow of biological energy through the plants and animals that inhabit Antarctica in order to provide the reader with an appreciation of the conditions of Antarctic life, its interrelationships and the special adaptations that make life possible. Columbia UPr, 1988, 208 p., illus, by Lucia deLeiris, \$27.50

Next: The Coming Era in Medicine - Holcomb B. Noble. Modern medicine, says the introduction, now holds greater promise of curing many kinds of illness with many different treatments and technologies in many parts of the world in ways that were once inconceivable. This book is about the rapid strides in medical research but also about the areas in which major barriers have yet to be overcome. Discusses the causes and treatments of cancer, the battle against heart disease, organ transplantation, vaccines and genetic engineering research and treatment of mental disorders. Describes the magnitude of medical problems that still exist in treating diabetes, herpes, Alzheimer's disease and AIDS. Little, 1988, 225p., \$17.95, paper, \$9.95.

The Tomorrow Makers: A Brave New World of Living-Brain Machines — Grant Fjermedal. An account of researchers working on the forefront of artificial intelligence and robotics. Provides a look at the possibilities for the future such as computers so small that a thousand mainframes would fit within a sugar cube, lifelike androids that are intelligent and charming and the process of downloading individual minds into computerized robots. Originally published in hardback by Macmillan in 1986. Microsoft Pr, 1988, 272 p., paper, \$8.95

Uranus and Neptune: The Distant Giants — Eric Burgess. These outer planets have always been mysterious worlds because of their great distance from earth. Burgess tells of their discovery and what was known about the planets from earth observation. The Voyager 2 flyby of Uranus provided the first closeup look at this giant planet. Included here are fascinating data, both in text and in photographs, which resulted from the flyby. Voyager 2 is now headed for Neptune, with its closest approach planned for Aug. 24-25, 1989. Much background material for this encounter is given. The planet Pluto is discussed briefly. Columbia U Pr., 1988, 188 p., illus., \$29.95.

The Whale and the Reactor: A Search for Limits in an Age of High Technology—Langdon Winner. Explores political, social and philosophical implications of technology. Winner feels that choices about the kinds of technical systems we build and use are actually choices about who we want to be and what kind of world we want to create. Originally published in hardback in 1986. U of Chicago Pr, 1988, 200 p., paper, \$8.95.

## Summer Activities for Young Readers

Clocks: Building and Experimenting with Model Timepieces. By Bernie Zubrowski. Sundials, water clocks, sandglasses and mechanical clocks are just a few of the many different kinds of timepieces you can make and experiment with to find out how clocks work. Ages 8-12, 112 pages, 7" x 9", paperback, \$6.95.

Galaxies. By Seymour Simon. You'll read about the different types of galaxies, how they are formed and how they get their different shapes. You'll learn many fascinating facts about such enormous clusters of stars as the Milky Way and the Andromeda galaxy. Ages 4-8, 32 pages, 10" x 10", hardcover, \$12.95.

Published by Morrow Junior Books

Sketching Outdoors in Summer. By Jim Arnosky. Arnosky invites artists of all ages to experience nature close up. Summer offers countless delights to observe and draw: catbirds and their hungry nestling . . . a gnarled tree trunk on the leeward shore of a lake . . . sheep huddling against a drenching summer shower . . . the shapely gunwales of a beached canoe. Ages 10 and up, 48 pages,  $9\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $11\frac{1}{4}$ ", hardcover, \$11.95.

Scaly Babies: Reptiles Growing Up. Ginny Johnston and Judy Cutchins. This engaging photoessay describes the lives and instincts of seven typical reptiles from around the world. Filled with over thirty captivating full-color photographs. Ages 7-10, 48 pages,  $8\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $9\frac{1}{4}$ ", hardcover, \$12.95.



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