

Books

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The Coming Quake: Science and Trembling on the California Earthquake Frontier — T.A. Heppenheimer. This science writer explores scientists' current efforts to predict and prepare for earthquakes, and ultimately, to control them with technology. The book examines for the general reader the history of earthquake prediction and profiles major figures in seismology, including Charles F. Richter of the Richter scale. Times Bks, 1988, 290 p., illus., \$17.95.

Dinosaurs in the Garden: An Evolutionary Guide to Backyard Biology — R. Gary Raham. A fascinating and well-illustrated introduction to natural history that describes commonly encountered creatures, such as starlings and pill bugs, and chronicles the changes that have occurred in them over the length of Earth's long history. Offers suggestions for observations and experiments. Plexus Pub, 1988, 279 p., illus., \$22.95.

The Female Animal — Irene Elia, introduction by Ashley Montagu. Explores the feminine mystique of the animal kingdom. Reveals the commanding powers of the female animal in this study of the sexual practices, "politics" and socialization of diverse species. H Holt & Co, 1988, 318 p., illus., \$21.95.

A Field Guide to Eastern Forests — John C. Kricher. Brings together and illustrates many of the most interesting facets of natural history that characterize forests and open fields throughout eastern North America. Tells how the many different species found together affect one another. Major forest communities, such as Northern Hardwood Forest, Appalachian Heath Balds, Baldcypress Swamp Forest, Boreal Bog and Texas Savanna, are illustrated in a series of color plates showing the most characteristic plants and animals associated with each forest region. The intent of this guide is to provide a tool for understanding how the complex fabric of nature is woven and held together. The author calls it "a field guide to ecology." HM, Peterson Field Guide Series, 1988, 368 p., color/b&w illus., paper, \$14.95.

Inward Bound: Of Matter and Forces in the Physical World — Abraham Pais. A history of quantum physics in which this outstanding physicist-writer describes what has been discovered and understood about the constituents of matter, the laws to which they are subjected and the forces that act on them. Although the advances during the period covered here (1895-1983) have seldom been equalled in the history of science, they did not come smoothly and the author conveys the times of progress and those of stagnation. The first part of the book, an historical survey, covers the years 1895-1945. The second part begins in 1946 with Pais' arrival in America and spans, as a memoir, the years to the present. Originally published in hardback in 1986. Oxford U Pr, 1988, 666 p., paper, \$17.95.

On Food and Cooking: The Science and Lore of the Kitchen — Harold McGee. Explains the nature of foods, what they are made of, where they originated and how they are transformed by cooking. Tells when and why particular culinary habits took hold, how science figures prominently in food and its preparation, and how history and etymology also contribute to our understanding of food and cooking. Originally published in hardback by Scribner in 1984. Collier Bks, 1988, 684 p., illus., paper, \$16.95.

Science and the Unborn: Choosing Human Futures — Clifford Grobstein. This noted biologist addresses the significance of the status of the unborn in light of advances in reproduction technology. The author, who is involved with public policy, outlines what scientists know about the four major phases of human development — preembryo, embryo, fetus and neonate. The book concludes by offering suggestions for reaching decisions on status for the unborn. Basic, 1988, 207 p., illus., \$18.95.

The Universe from Your Backyard: A Guide to Deep-Sky Objects from ASTRONOMY Magazine — David J. Eicher. This collection of 46 "The Backyard Astronomer" columns that appeared in ASTRONOMY magazine is a guide to finding with your telescope 690 deep-sky objects as seen in relation to the constellations. More than 100 color photographs and 116 telescopic sketches aid the reader in understanding these objects, which range from open star clusters to planetary nebulae. Cambridge U Pr, 1988, 188 p., color/b&w illus., \$24.95.

The Creative Attitude

Learning to Ask and Answer the Right Question

By Roger Schank
with Peter Childers

Schank discusses two principal attitudes that inhibit creativity: we are afraid of failure; and we tend to act and think the way we always have or were told to, what Schank refers to as rigidified, "script-based" thought. He also introduces the major concepts and principles that lead us to solving these problems: how to take advantage of our failures by noticing and explaining them; and how to improve our explanations of the world by asking better questions.

The Creative Attitude contains a highly original set of concrete recommendations for adapting a truly creative attitude—a powerful problem-solving tool. Schank shows the reader how to transform a "bad" question into a more precise, direct one that, in turn, will lead to creative solutions.

—from the publisher

Macmillan, 1988, 372 pages, 9½" x 6¼", hardcover, \$22.50
ISBN 0-02-607170-3

"Creative people tend to treat the most everyday phenomena as slightly odd. They wonder why butterflies have to be caterpillars first. They wonder why the drugstore on the corner always does well and why the one across the street from it seems to be up for sale every two years. They wonder why men are usually taller than women and why women have longer hair. They notice things and ask questions about them. They aren't satisfied with what others take for granted."

—from the author

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