## **Books**

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The Arabs, Second Edition — Peter Mansfield. A concise introduction to the social, historical and political development of the Middle East, from the pre-Islamic nomads of Arabia to the oil-supported Arab renaissance. Mansfield documents the centuries-old struggle for dominance between Christendom and the Islamic world, concluding with a discussion of the Arabs themselves, their characteristics and their aspirations. First edition originally published in the United States in 1977 under the title *The Arab World: A Comprehensive History*. Penguin, 1985, 527 p., paperback, \$8.95.

The Baby Doctors: Probing the Limits of Fetal Medicine — Gina Kolata. A New York Times science writer chronicles the achievements of fetal surgeons in various parts of the world, tracing the history of their efforts and the technical innovations that make fetal surgery possible. An insightful and thought-provoking look at doctors who perform unprecedented, lifesaving surgeries and at women who have elected fetal procedures with varying results. Kolata reveals both the medical triumphs and the ethical controversies stemming from the exploration of this surgical frontier. Delacorte, 1990, 213 p., hardcover. \$18.95.

Headache Relief: A Comprehensive, Up-to-Date, Medically Proven Program That Can Control and Ease Headache Pain — Alan M. Rapoport and Fred D. Sheftell. A concise and informative guide to recent findings about causes and treatments of headaches, including migraines. The authors, co-founders of the New England Center for Headache, discuss medications, diet, exercise and relaxation techniques. S&S, 1990, 288 p., hardcover, \$18.95.

Other Origins: The Search for the Giant Ape in Human Prehistory — Russell Ciochon, John Olsen and Jamie James. Chronicles the authors' expeditions into the jungles of postwar Vietnam in search of clues to the legendary ape *Gigantopithecus* and its demise (see story, p. 245). In addition to field anecdotes and theories on human social evolution, their engrossing narrative presents startling and long-overlooked evidence that the primate order originated in Asia and that modern humans may have evolved in Asia in parallel with hominid evolution in Africa. Bantam, 1990, 262 p., illus., hardcover, \$22.95.

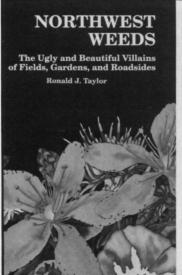
Red Oaks and Black Birches: The Science and Lore of Trees — Rebecca Rupp. You can drive your friends up a tree with trivia from this entertaining book. Did you know that the oak tree is hit by lightning more than any other tree? That elm wood survives for centuries underwater? That Christmas tree growers plant roughly 80 million trees every year? Each chapter is dedicated to a different tree — including sycamore, hickory, poplar, apple and many more — and filled with tidbits on its history, uses and lore. Storey Comm Inc, 1990, 276 p., paperback, \$10.95.

Sleep and Dreaming — Jacob Empson. Researchers are beginning to answer many age-old questions about sleep and dreams: Do we dream in color? Why do some themes recur? Why do some people sleepwalk? Empson reviews recent sleep research for the general reader, explaining what scientists have learned about the experience of sleep and dreaming, the psychophysiology of sleep, and the various types of sleep disorders. Originally published in Great Britain in 1989. Faber & Faber, 1990, 258 p., illus., hardcover, \$21.95.

Stedman's Medical Dictionary, 25th Edition. This highly regarded reference has been updated to include a total of 100,000 definitions as well as color-plate diagrams of the muscular, skeletal, nervous and vascular systems. A subentry locator index indicates which subentries are under which entries, so you'll know right away to look for gout under diet and for acupuncture under anesthesia. Williams & Wilkins, 1990, 1,784 p., color/b&w illus., hardcover, \$38.95.

The Tufts University Guide to Total Nutrition

— Stanley Gershoff. A compilation of up-to-date nutrition information drawn from research at Tufts University. Explains how to plan balanced diets, how to decipher food labels, how to meet changing nutritional needs as you grow older, and much more. Discusses food allergies and intolerances, as well as the connection between food and disease. In an age of information overload, this valuable reference helps separate nutritional fact from fiction. Har-Row, 1990, 312 p., charts & diagrams, hardcover, \$22.50.



This field guide is a valuable reference for any farmer, gardener, naturalist or traveler interested in the plant-world opportunists of the Pacific Northwest, the northern Rockies and southwestern Canada. Arranged into natural groups, such as ferns, grasses and mints, each entry provides a color photograph and a brief description with information on plant lore, edibility and aggressiveness. Botanical descriptions are supplemented by helpful illustrations of plant and flower anatomy and by a glossary.

Mountain Press, 1990, 177 pages, 5½" x 8½", pagerback \$11,95

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In My Weeds, Sara Stein tours the complex world of common weeds, sharing with the reader entertaining and intriguing facts about their history, reproductive habits and anatomy. Written in an engaging and anecdotal style, the book conveys Stein's wonder at and appreciation of the peculiar niche occupied by dandelions, crabgrass, fleabane, duckweed and other weeds. Gardeners and plant lovers will come away with their eyes open to what is really going on in the garden.

Harper & Row, 1988, 229 pages, 51/4" x 8", paperback, \$8.95

242 SCIENCE NEWS, VOL. 138