

## Books

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**Cambridge Dictionary of Biology** — Peter M.B. Walker, Ed. Covers zoology, botany, biochemistry, molecular biology and genetics with more than 10,000 alphabetically arranged entries as well as longer descriptions for terms needing more extensive explanation, such as radiation, genetic manipulation and photosynthesis. Originally published in Great Britain in 1989 under the title *Chambers Biology Dictionary*. Cambridge U Pr, 1990, 324 p., illus., paperback, \$14.95.

**Disappearing Through the Skylight: Culture and Technology in the Twentieth Century** — O.B. Hardison Jr. A thought-provoking exploration of the effects of progress on culture and on our relationship with the universe. Hardison contends that technology is forcing nature — as well as our understanding of what it is to be human — out of view. The concepts that have evolved as a result of our changing perspective no longer describe a real world, he says; the real world has, in effect, "disappeared." He reviews aspects of 20th-century history, science, language and art to illustrate how this disappearance is changing modern culture and the concept of modern identity. Originally published in hardcover in 1989. Penguin, 1990, 389 p., illus., paperback, \$12.95.

**In the Palaces of Memory: How We Build the Worlds Inside Our Heads** — George Johnson. How does the brain create and store memories? Why, when you've seen a face just once, do you recognize it decades later? This engrossing account follows three different paths of memory research — forged by neurobiologist Gary Lynch, Nobel-winning physicist Leon Cooper and philosopher Patricia Churchland — and explains why these paths are now converging in an exchange of ideas and information. Written for readers with a basic understanding of physics and biology. Knopf, 1991, 255 p., hardcover, \$22.95.

**Let it Rot! The Gardener's Guide to Composting** — Stu Campbell. Approximately three-quarters of ordinary household waste is organic and compostable, Campbell maintains. In this introductory guide to composting, he discusses what materials to compost, how to structure a compost pile or bin, how to build the necessary equipment and how to use the compost in gardens and lawns. Storey, 1990, 152 p., illus., paperback, \$8.95.

**Mayo Clinic Family Health Book** — David E. Larson, Ed. Organized in an easy-to-use, five-section format, this authoritative home reference covers first aid and emergency care, nutrition, exercise and fitness, pregnancy and infant care, stress control, a variety of diseases and disorders, modern medical care and more. Includes a glossary, comprehensive index, appendices on common medical tests and prescription drugs, and a full-color atlas of human anatomy. Morrow, 1990, 1,378 p., color/b&w illus., hardcover, \$34.95.

**1991 Conservation Directory** — National Wildlife Federation. A guide to governmental and private organizations engaged in conservation work at the state, national and international levels, including wildlife refuges and national parks. Most entries include an address and phone number, a brief description of the organization's objectives and a list of its publications and principal officers or staff. NWF, 1991, 380 p., paperback, \$18.00.

**What Kind of Life: The Limits of Medical Progress** — Daniel Callahan. A controversial analysis of the efficiency of the U.S. health care system. Callahan, an ethical philosopher and director of New York's renowned Hastings Center, contends that the U.S. obsession with manipulating and prolonging life beyond reasonable expectation escalates medical costs astronomically and focuses on individual treatment while neglecting preventive care, health care for the general public, and other societal needs such as education and housing. S&S, 1991, 318 p., paperback, \$9.95.

**Witnesses from the Grave: The Stories Bones Tell** — Christopher Joyce and Eric Stover. A riveting look at forensic anthropology — the application of human-skeleton studies to civil and criminal investigations — through the eyes of Clyde Snow, one of the field's foremost practitioners. From Snow's examination of the skeletal remains of the elusive Nazi doctor Josef Mengele to his identification of the victims of a serial killer, this narrative unveils the methods used to decipher the tales of the dead. Little, 1991, 333 p., illus., hardcover, \$19.95.

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