

Books

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AIDS in the World — Jonathan Mann, Daniel J.M. Tarantola, and Thomas W. Netter, eds. Call it a plague, call it a pandemic, AIDS poses a growing threat to Earth's inhabitants. This comprehensive volume, an independent study by the Global AIDS Policy Coalition, provides a wealth of data, projections, and information about the disease. It forecasts that by the year 2000, between 38 and 110 million adults and as many as 10 million children will be infected with HIV, the AIDS-causing virus. And it argues that efforts to bring the disease under control are now at a critical juncture. Designed for AIDS professionals and patients, HIV-infected individuals, and anyone interested in this illness. Harvard U Pr, 1992, 1,037 p., hardcover, \$45.00, paperback, \$19.95.

Big Science — Nick Downes. This first collection of Downes' work — familiar to readers of *SCIENCE*, *DATAMATION*, *HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW*, and other publications — features some witty looks at science and scientists. From the science-fair entrant whose concept of the Big Bang involves a lot of dynamite to the sea turtle who complains to a fellow tortoise: "The 19th? Worst century of my life," Downes presents a slightly skewed view of life in the lab and beyond. Says cartoonist Sidney Harris in his introduction: "When I see the gems in this book . . . I go off in a corner, slap my forehead, and mumble, 'I wish I thought of that.'" AAAS Press, 1992, 120 p., paperback, \$10.95.

Dealing with Genes: The Language of Heredity — Paul Berg and Maxine Singer. Our fates are often writ not in the stars, but within the tiny bits of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) we call genes. The past 40 years have produced a revolution in our understanding of genes, their functions, and the ill effects of their malfunctions. Yet most people have little understanding of this dramatic story. To rectify this situation, two eminent molecular biologists have written this readable primer on modern genetics for the general public, even those with little formal background in biology. Berg and Singer cover such topics as what genes and chromosomes are, how genetic materials code and convey information, how proteins result, gene cloning, and the manipulation of genes in biotechnology and the treatment of human ills. The book is extensively illustrated with line drawings and includes a glossary. University Sci Bks, 1992, 269 p., hardcover, \$34.00.

Last Oasis: Facing Water Scarcity — Sandra Postel. Human life depends on water; whole societies have waged war over it. And now, the author argues, the world stands on the verge of international conflicts and major shifts in national economies as the result of water shortages. Postel, a vice president of the Worldwatch Institute, outlines water-shortage problems and describes solutions, both large-scale and small — including conservation, recycling, and regulation. Norton, 1992, 239 p., paperback, \$9.95.

Mysteries of Life and the Universe — William H. Shore, ed. Twenty-nine writers on science offer a series of essays that blend hard science with personal anecdote. From ruminations on time, the origins of the universe, and the dinosaurs, to reflections on the mind of a neurologist, the grandeur of the Grand Canyon, and memory, the authors reveal the breadth and humanity of the sciences. HBJ, 1992, 317 p., hardcover, \$24.95.

The Plant Growth Planner — Caroline Boisset. The author helps gardeners plan their dream gardens from first planting to maturity. Her charts depict stages of growth — height or spread, as appropriate — of more than 500 popular and reliable garden plants and offer a handy reference for picking the right plants for the right site. Each entry provides practical advice on planting, care, and maintenance, such as guidelines for pruning. Color photographs and more than 200 illustrated growth charts for shrubs, trees, climbers, and perennials. Prentice Hall, 1992, 192 p., hardcover, \$25.00.

Robots: The Quest for Living Machines — Geoff Simons. Meet "Manny," a fully articulated robotic mannequin that simulates sweating and breathing in order to test space suits and protective clothing for firefighters. Manny's picture graces the cover of Simon's exploration of the quest to create a living machine, an age-old dream he argues is closer than ever to realization. The book covers robots in myth, the early days of automata, modern robotics, intelligent machines, the applications of robots today and in the future, and the impact of robots on our attitudes. Black-and-white photographs. Cassell, 1992, 224 p., hardcover, \$29.95.

Snow: Learning for the Fun of It — John Bianchi and Frank B. Edwards. A science writer and a science illustrator offer a light look at snow, including a close-up view of the snowflake and its seven basic shapes, polluting snow, snow on the move in the form of glaciers and icebergs, and a description of life in an igloo. They introduce the reader to a meteorologist who devoted his life to photographing snowflakes, offer advice on tracking animals in the snow, and provide a collection of snow trivia. Whimsical color illustrations generously illustrate this book for children and adults alike. Firefly Bks Ltd, 1992, 48 p., paperback, \$7.95.

Volcanoes of North America: United States and Canada — Charles A. Wood and Jürgen Kienle. The 1980s, the decade that began with the deadly eruption of Mount St. Helens, yielded a vast increase in our understanding of volcanism. This volume, written by leading volcanologists, draws on that new knowledge in its succinct descriptions of more than 250 volcanoes and volcanic fields formed during the last 5 million years in the United States and Canada. Each listing includes the volcano's classification, composition, and eruptive history, as well as directions on how to reach it. Intended for earth scientists and the reader with a strong curiosity about volcanoes, this book is illustrated with black-and-white photographs, maps, and charts. Published in hardcover in 1990. Cambridge U Pr, 1992, 354 p., paperback, \$29.95.

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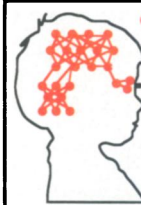
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