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**Allergies A-Z** — Myron A. Lipkowitz and Tova Navarra. This reference lists terms that relate to allergies and their symptoms, treatments, statistics, causes, and type. Data on professional allergy organizations, allergy tests, and pollens conclude the volume. Facts on File, 1994, 352 p., hardcover, \$40.00.

**The End of Physics: The Myth of a Unified Theory** — David Lindley. A theoretical physicist and senior editor at *SCIENCE* contends that modern physicists are straying from true science in search of answers they can never hope to validate, such as the so-called Theory of Everything. He argues that physicists are blinded by the truisms and persuasiveness of mathematics. Lindley provides a solid overview of the developments in particle physics during the last century and concludes that we have not progressed from the time 100 years ago when physics was declared a dying field. At this point, he contends, physics is evolving into a mythological field. Originally published in hardcover in 1993. Basic, 1994, 275 p., paperback, \$13.00.

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**The Mathematical Universe: An Alphabetical Journey Through the Great Proofs, Problems, and Personalities** — William Dunham. Organized in a A-to-Z format, the text brings together many different facets of mathematics and its history and shows the breadth and depth of this discipline in history and current, everyday events. Topics range from the Pythagorean theorem to Russell's Paradox and the fascinating conundrum of Fermat's Last Theorem. The masters of these mathematical concepts are not ignored: 17th century rivals Isaac Newton and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz headline two chapters, as do Euler and Fermat. Wiley, 1994, 314 p., b&w photos and illus., hardcover, \$22.95.

**The Orion Mystery: Unlocking the Secrets of the Pyramids** — Robert Bauval and Adrian Gilbert. In a very interesting debate about why the Great Pyramids of Giza were built, Bauval and Gilbert evidence their case that the Egyptians were trying to create "heaven on earth." They feel that the so-called airshafts in the Pyramids are in alignment toward the Belt of Orion, Sirius, Ursa Minor, and the North Pole. This alignment in conjunction with the location of the Pyramids along the Nile, which was a counterpart of the Milky Way, enabled the pharaohs to follow Osiris, god of the dead, and return to stellar heaven. Through extensive studies of the Pyramid Texts and the findings of a tiny robot camera sent into previously unseen areas of the Pyramids, the authors provide an immense amount of supportive data. Crown Pub Group, 1994, 325 p., b&w plates and illus., hardcover, \$24.00.

**Our Dreaming Mind** — Robert L. Van de Castle. Written by the former director of the Sleep and Dream Laboratory at the University of Virginia Medical Center, this book surveys past and current theories about dreams. From the beliefs of ancient peoples through the postulations of Freud and Jung to the work he has been involved with for the last 30 years dealing with brain wave monitoring, Van de Castle charts the course of these studies. The results of his work, some of which is very controversial, show how dreams change and affect people in different stages of life, such as adolescence and pregnancy. The latter part of the book explores the "twilight zone" of this field as the author addresses the idea of dreams as a tool for physical diagnosis and the realm of lucid dreams, where the dreamer is conscious of participating in the dream. Ballantine, 1994, 547 p., hardcover, \$25.00.

**The Tribe of Tiger: Cats and Their Culture** — Elizabeth Marshall Thomas. An anthropologist and author of *The Hidden Life of Dogs*, Thomas now turns her attention to the study of domestic and wild cats as she seeks to define their "culture." By correlating the learned and inherited traits of felines, she provides a sense of who cats are and their relationship to humans and their own kind. She offers reasons for purring and demarcation of territory, in addition to ideas about a cat's sense of family and other insights into a variety of aspects of feline culture. S&S, 1994, 240 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$20.00.

At age 54, Derek suffered a stroke that left him temporarily unable to speak. A month later his speech returned, but he experienced the speech of others as "mumbling." Was Derek partially deaf? No: doctors discovered that he failed to hear only abstract words (such as idea or freedom).

Dr. Richard Restak employs fascinating cases such as this to explore the concept of the modular brain. Derek's case and others like it suggest that spoken and written comprehension occur in separate areas of the brain — that the brain is not centrally organized as previously thought; rather, different parts of the brain control different abilities, and these parts (or modules) operate independently.

As Dr. Restak explains, this renders untenable the traditional distinction between mind and brain embodied in the two often competing disciplines of psychiatry and neurology. While most of us think of ourselves as having unified minds and personalities, important aspects of ourselves may be altered or disappear completely as a result of brain damage.

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## RICHARD M. RESTAK, M.D.

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