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An Inventor in the Garden of Eden — Eric Laithwaite. An engineer explores human inventions and the laws of nature. Laithwaite contends that many so-called human inventions previously occurred in the natural world. He shows how the sizes and shapes of most inventions take into consideration the size and shape of Earth and how many new innovations are consciously based on those that occur already in nature. Through numerous anecdotes and observations, he traverses a variety of fields — including cosmology, biology, religion, and economics — to prove his point. Cambridge U Pr, 1994, 289 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$24.95.

Cheetahs of the Serengeti Plains: Group Living in an Asocial Species — T. M. Caro. Unlike most species of carnivores, cheetah society comprises some cats who live in groups and others who remain solitary. This makes them appropriate subject matter for this study of the evolution of social living. Using more than a decade's worth of research and concentrating on why cubs stay with their mothers for a full year after weaning; why littermates remain together as temporary units; and why males keep permanent associations of other males throughout life, Caro offers insights into the behavior and ecology of these and other mammals. U Ch Pr, 1994, 478 p., b&w photos and illus., paperback, \$26.95.

The Consumer's Good Chemical Guide: A Jargon-free Guide to the Chemicals of Everyday Life — John Emsley. Many common chemicals have unwarranted negative reputations, Emsley reports in this guide to information and misinformation about a number of chemicals. He reveals the science behind cholesterol, fats, and dietary fiber; sugar and artificial sweeteners; alcohol; perfume; carbon dioxide; plastics and PVC; dioxins and nitrates in the environment; and the risks associated with taking drugs and pain killers, among others. Data revealing that the sweetener aspartame protects against tooth decay and that plastic wraps transfer small amounts of polymer plasticizers to the food they protect are just a sampling of the findings presented to encourage readers to form their own opinions once presented with a balanced argument. Freeman, 1994, 347 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$24.95.

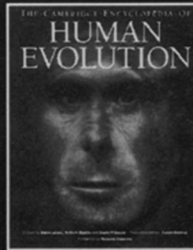
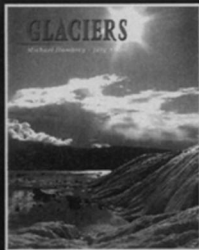
Murder, Magic, and Medicine — John Mann. An organic chemist traces the evolution of modern medicine from its roots in folk medicine, emphasizing the link between the folk use of plant and animal extracts and the modern use of these substances in drugs. Today's poisons, stimulants, antibacterials, antiparasitics, anti-inflammatory agents, and mind-altering drugs all have antecedents in the potions of antiquity. Mann describes the uses and abuses of natural products through the ages, explains the chemical basis of modern pharmacology, and ponders what potentially beneficial drugs will be lost through the continued destruction of the world's wild places. Originally published in hardcover in 1992. OUP, 1994, 232 p., b&w photos and illus., \$14.95.

Ties That Stress: The New Family Imbalance — David Elkind. A professor of child study tracks the changing framework of the American family as it has digressed from the nuclear family to the postmodern permeable family. Elkind explores the changes in American culture and values as children become more like small adults rather than being allowed to be immature and dependent upon their parents. Viewpoints from professionals in the field of child and adult development enhance Elkind's theories about the rise of a new kind of family unit, which incorporates the most positive attributes of each previous unit. HUP, 1994, 260 p., hardcover, \$19.95.

Under Observation: Life Inside a Psychiatric Hospital — Lisa Berger and Alexander Vuckovic. Based on case studies of patients at McLean Hospital, a psychiatric and teaching facility outside Boston, this summary reviews treatment procedures and dilemmas facing such institutions in the wake of health care reform. The case studies are composites of several patients with similar conditions who were observed from the time of their admission through their aftercare. Treatments for a variety of ailments, from schizophrenia to severe depression, are tracked to illuminate state-of-the-art therapy and some of the research now being conducted. Ticknor & Fields, 1994, 269 p., hardcover, \$22.95.

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