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**Aristotle's Physics: A Guided Study** — Joe Sachs. In Sach's translation — with its accompanying introduction, glossary, and commentaries on other thinkers, ancient and modern — Aristotle's view of the natural world becomes clear and vibrant. This book, one in the Masterworks of Discovery series, presents Aristotle's scientific classic not as a historical curiosity, but as an integral part of the development of scientific thought. Rutgers U Pr, 1995, 260 p., paperback, \$18.00.

**Conversations with Neil's Brain: The Neural Nature of Thought and Language** — William H. Calvin and George A. Ojemann. A composite of several patients, Neil is an epileptic who undergoes surgery to correct his condition. As usual in such neurosurgery, Neil remains awake and able to converse with those around him while his cerebral cortex is stimulated. Calvin, a neurophysiologist, and Ojemann, a neurosurgeon, give a first-hand account of Neil's surgery. Then, through conversations with their patient, the authors explain various aspects of the brain and offer insight into the mysteries of human memory, language, and thought. Originally published in hardcover in 1994. Addison-Wesley, 1995, 343 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$12.00.

**The Descent of the Child: Human Evolution from a New Perspective** — Elaine Morgan. Morgan contends that in studying human evolution, we must focus not just on adults but on infants as well. By following the development of a child from conception to puberty, she illustrates her theory that human intelligence is a byproduct of evolving babyhood. It is during infancy that helpless human infants learn to think and question, by manipulating their caretakers and thus the world around them. OUP, 1995, 197 p., hardcover, \$19.95.

**The DNA Mystique: The Gene As a Cultural Icon** — Dorothy Nelkin and M. Susan Lindee. What explains society's fascination with DNA, genes, and the genetic code? Two scholars dissect how science and culture have interacted to shape the social meaning of the gene. They describe how the gene has been appropriated to define proper family, predict future behavior, and advance common stereotypes of gender and race. They also show how cultural interpretations of the gene influence individual expectations, institutional practices, and social policies. WH Freeman, 1995, 276 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$22.95.

**Man and Microbes: Disease and Plagues in History and Modern Times** — Arno Karlen. Science writer Karlen recounts the history of a variety of epidemics and pandemics and explains how humans and microbes adapt to each other. Armed with this understanding, he asks his audience to consider some new and some all-but-forgotten diseases and microbes, including HIV, hantavirus, *Escherichia coli*, and tuberculosis. Putnam, 1995, 266 p., hardcover, \$24.95.

**The New Science Journalists** — Ted Anton and Rick McCourt, eds. The prose of both emerging and prominent science writers illuminates some of the most intriguing findings and aspects of research in fields from biotechnology to physics. In an intriguing variety of styles, these writers bring sometimes technical and obscure subject matter to the nonscientist. A history and current overview of science writing prefaces pieces by Deborah Blum on the opposing passions of animal researchers and activists; Jim Kelly on Richard Smalley, the chemist who crafted buckyballs; and Timothy Ferris on the functions and structures of the mind. Ballantine, 1995, 340 p., paperback, \$12.50.

**Renewables Are Ready: People Creating Renewable Energy Solutions** — Nancy Cole and P.J. Skerrett. A community in Vermont that will save more than \$1 million by converting to a wood chip heating system in its local high school and a large-scale wind project in Iowa are just 2 of the 75 active alternative energy scenarios profiled in this guide. Solar, hydroelectric, wind, and biomass are some of the large scale renewable energy sources outlined, in addition to methods for financing them and overcoming the political barriers that often face implementation of such systems. Chelsea Green Pub, 1995, 239 p., b&w photos, paperback, \$19.95.

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Sierra Club Books, 1994,  
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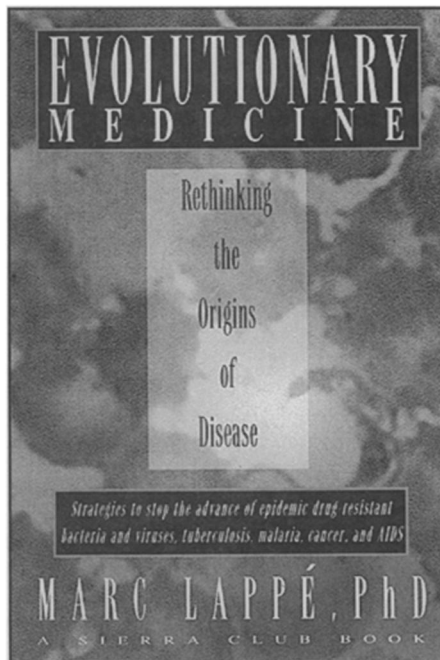
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The reemergence of infectious bacterial diseases resistant to multiple antibiotics, and the increasing incidence of fatal diseases such as cancer and tuberculosis are indicative of a failure of modern medicine to understand the complex interaction of disease, human evolution, and modern therapeutics. *Evolutionary Medicine* is an exploration of the origins of the new patterns of such diseases and the forces that shape their evolution.

Marc Lappé presents diseases as evolutionary processes linked inextricably with environmental and ecological factors. Since all human illnesses have their roots in the forces that shaped evolution, it is critical to realize that human-made disruptions to the environment are now shaping the patterns of disease around the world as are treatments that are being utilized to combat them.

By identifying a new perspective from which to view our present medical dilemmas, and by exploring the common roots of such events as the proliferation of HIV, the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, and key autoimmune diseases, Marc Lappé has provided the basis for a new field, that of evolutionary medicine.

— from Sierra Club Books

