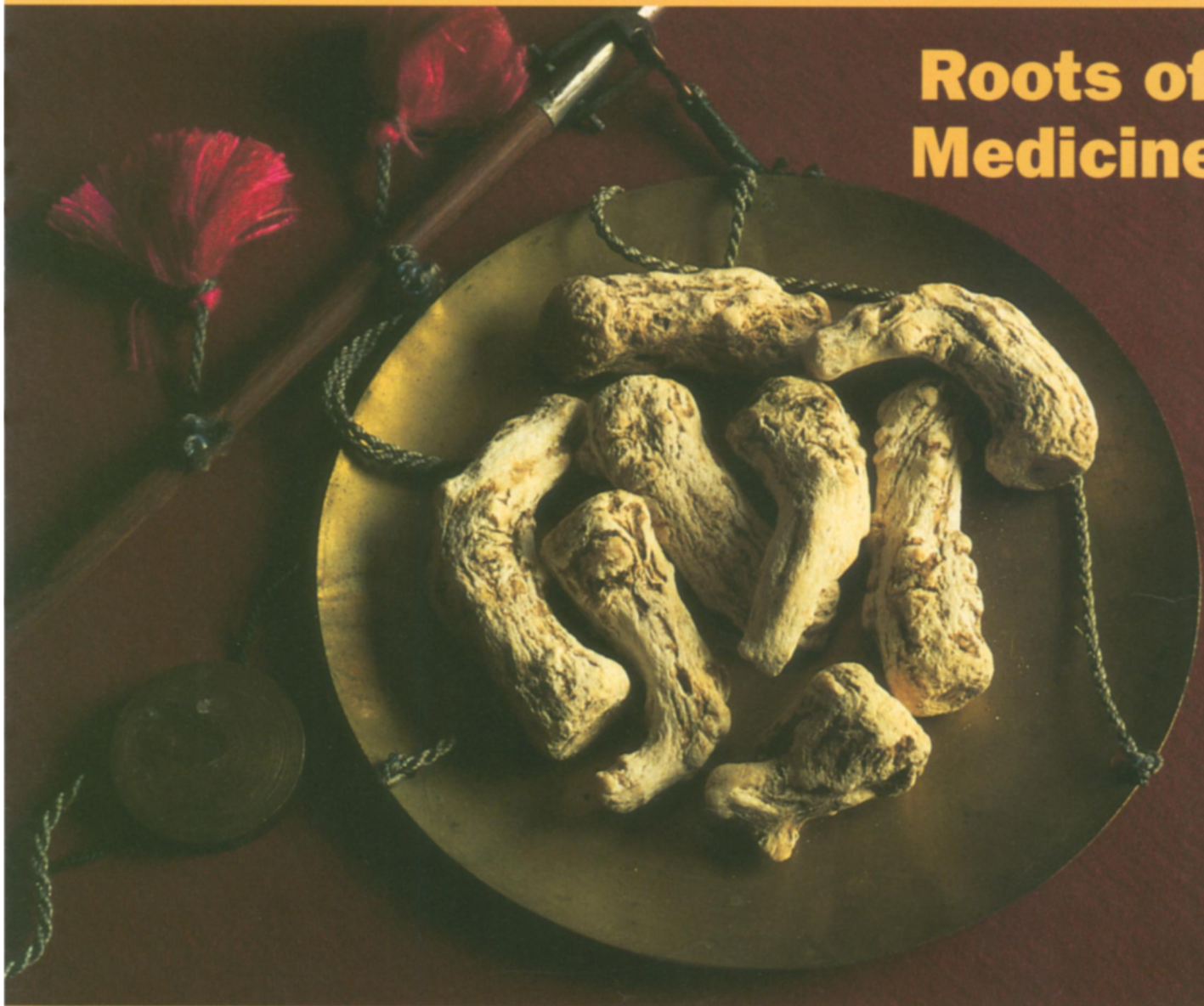


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Roots of Medicine

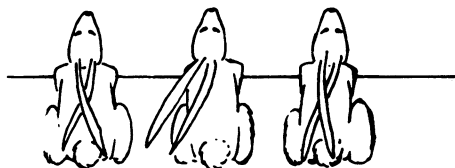


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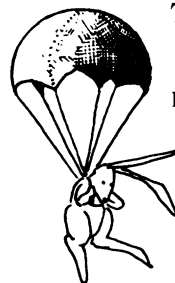
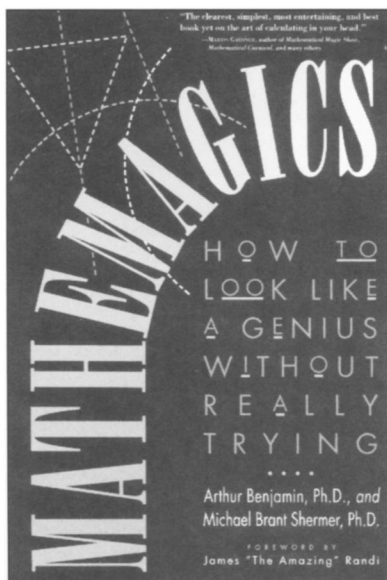


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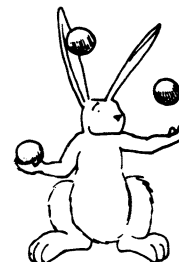
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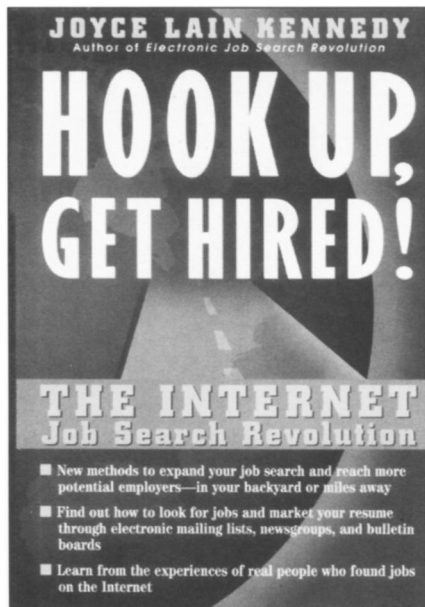
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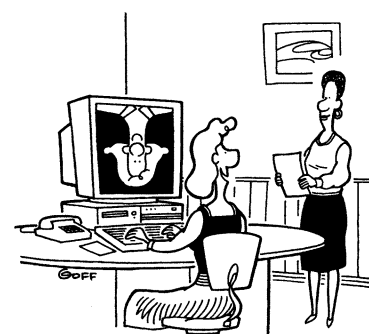
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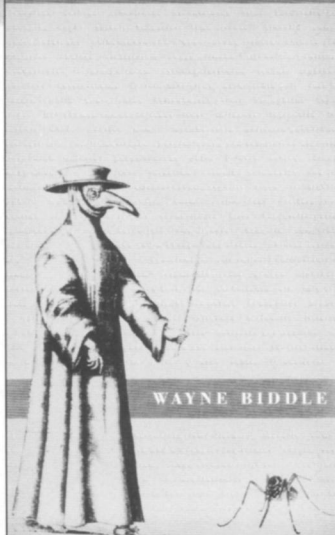
The drift of baby boomers into middle age, the decay of big cities into Third World poverty, the sudden, terrifying outbreak of epidemics like the Ebola virus, and the existence of a worldwide plague that continues to defy the power of research have reminded every one of us that the “wonders of modern medicine” may not be so wonderful after all. It’s no surprise that a certain edginess about contagion has crept into daily encounters of all kinds.

In *A Field Guide to Germs*, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Wayne Biddle has written a serious-minded, thorough, but also mordantly witty guide to nearly 100 of the most well known (in terms of prevalence, power, historical importance, or even literary interest) of the innumerable potentially unfriendly organisms that not only surround us but in many cases inhabit us every day of our lives.

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