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Frogs—David Badger and John Netherton. Badger and renowned nature photographer Netherton present 50 extraordinary—and often common—specimens of frogs and toads from around the globe. A broad introductory section surveys the general physical characteristics and behavior typical of these amphibians. Later sections describe the habitat, size, habits, and history of each featured toad or frog, including many beautiful varieties of tree frogs. Remarkable color photographs are used throughout the text. Voyageur Pr, 1995, 141 p., color photos, hardcover, \$35.00.

Genes, Blood, and Courage: A Boy Called Immortal Sword—David G. Nathan. Framing his story around the illness and progress of a patient afflicted with a severe anemia called thalassemia, Nathan chronicles the advancements made in the field of molecular medicine over the last 25 years. Not only does Nathan's patient survive, but Nathan himself helps forge the future of genetic medicine, which he hopes will produce a cure for genetic diseases like thalassemia, cystic fibrosis, and sickle-cell anemia in the next 20 years. Belknap Pr, 1995, 276 p., hardcover, \$24.95.

How Buildings Work: The Natural Order of Architecture—Edward Allen. Beyond providing a sound overview of the principles of structure and architectural aesthetics, this intriguing book delves into the functionality of buildings. It answers questions such as: Why do basements flood? How can temperature be controlled in every room? How can buildings be made fire-resistant? How can rooms be soundproofed? The role of everything from structure to the impact of the sun, from support devices to movement, is discussed as it relates to creating the most useful, beautiful, and strongest structures that provide optimum living and working space. OUP, 1995, 245 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$39.95.

Making and Enjoying Telescopes: Six Complete Projects and a Stargazer's Guide—Robert Miller and Kenneth Wilson. Amateur astronomers discover how the basic components of telescopes work—knowledge that proves useful in building a variety of outlined field telescopes. The parts required are fairly inexpensive, common items, although the authors describe the costlier accessories available. Guidelines on how to use these homemade telescopes are also provided. Sterling/Lark, 1995, 160 p., color photos and b&w illus., hardcover, \$24.95.

The New York Public Library Science Desk Reference—Patricia Barnes-Svarney, ed. Ten sections representative of the major scientific disciplines offer information about the terminology, current issues, experts and leading researchers, with subsections of the various components of each field. Additional sections list science resources such as zoos and aquariums, Nobel laureates, scientific symbols, time, and measurements. All are thoroughly illustrated. Macmillan, 1995, 668 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$39.95.

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Trilobites—Riccardo Levi-Setti. Because of their mineralized exoskeletons, trilobites fossilized readily during their time, between 600 million and 230 million years ago, and are now one of the most prolific ancient fossils in existence. In this updated, second-edition survey of these "butterflies of the sea," photographs of trilobites from around the world and through the ages are accompanied by text describing the evolutionary and geologic insights gleaned from these arthropods. Originally published in hardcover in 1993. U of Chicago Pr, 1995, 342 p., b&w photos and illus., paperback, \$24.95.

Out of Their Minds: The Lives and Discoveries of 15 Great Computer Scientists—Dennis Shasha and Cathy Lazere. Divided into four parts, this book tackles the basic questions that computer scientists have wrestled with over the last 50 years: How should I talk to the machine? What is a good method for solving a problem quickly? Can I build a better computer? Can I write a computer program that can find its own solutions? It does so by interviewing and describing the lives and work of the world's 15 leading computer scientists. Copernicus, 1995, 291 p., b&w plates and illus., hardcover, \$23.00.

The Way Life Works—Mahlon Hoagland and Bert Dodson. Young adults seeking a working knowledge of how living organisms grow, develop, reproduce, and survive will find what they need in this whimsical, yet thorough, introduction to concepts as wide-ranging as the secret language of DNA, the ability of photosynthesis to make sugar, thermodynamics, a spider's feedback in neural circuits, embryonic development, and the evolution of natural selection. Generously illustrated, these basic concepts are put forth with easy-to-read text and many helpful diagrams. Times Bks, 1995, 233 p., color illus., hardcover, \$35.00.

Who Succeeds in Science? The Gender Dimension—Gerhard Sonnert and Gerald Holton. Data compiled from 700 questionnaires and 200 interviews with individuals poised to pursue a scientific career reveal why some of them—more often men than women—became successful scientists. The control group for this study contained people on the same fast track who did not continue in science. Personal stories of 10 people—half who are highly successful and still employed in the scientific community and half who left—provide further insight into the obstacles they face, as well as the benefits of pursuing a career in science. Rutgers U Pr, 1995, 215 p., paperback, \$16.95.

Without Miracles: Universal Selection Theory and the Second Darwinian Revolution—Gary Cziko. A fish's streamlined shape functions best in water. A bat's echolocation system is perfectly adapted to the physics of sound. Each of these examples indicates a particular organism's fit with some aspect of its environment, and Cziko attempts to explain fit in this context. This points him to natural selection, which he expounds upon by proposing Darwinian explanations for other types of fit demonstrated by living organisms. Concluding sections outline how the evolutionary technique of cumulative blind variation and selection applies to the functioning of machines and organisms and why universal selection theory holds true. MIT Pr, 1995, 385 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$30.00.