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Breakthrough: The Race to Find the Breast Cancer Gene—Kevin Davies and Michael White. Since ovarian and breast cancer are known to cluster in families, scientists like Mary-Clair King, Francis Collins, and Mark Skolnick tackled head-on the likelihood of a genetic link to this type of cancer. Their aggressiveness paid off in 1990, with King's discovery of the *BRCA1* gene, which if damaged, could predispose women to developing breast and ovarian cancer. Subsequently, Collins and Skolnick have helped to pinpoint and isolate it. This is the story of their quest and the inner workings of the research community, with its rivalries and cooperative efforts. It is also an in-depth look at the ramifications of this discovery for women with the gene and what new treatments may follow this genetic breakthrough. Wiley, 1996, 310 p., hardcover, \$24.95.

New Mathematical Diversions—Martin Gardner. Chosen from Gardner's Mathematical Games, a monthly column in *SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN*, this collection of puzzles presents additional information and includes feedback from readers. Some of the problems included in the book, along with their answers, are group theory and braids, the games and puzzles of Lewis Carroll, the transcendental number pi, and polyominoes and fault-free rectangles. Math Assn, 1995, 268 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$19.95.

Peterson's Summer Opportunities for Kids and Teenagers 1996—This guidebook lists more than 1,600 programs in academics, the arts, recreation, sports, wilderness study, and other areas that children can attend both in the United States and abroad. Detailed entries about type of facility, programs offered, quality, location, price, enrollment, staff, daily schedule, and financial aid offer opportunities to study French in France, study architecture, or travel to Yosemite. Peterson's Guides, 1996, 1,241 p., b&w photos, paperback, \$24.95.

The Planetary Mind—Arne A. Wyller. Using some of the tenets of Darwinism, such as natural selection, Wyller, an astrophysicist, argues that "humanity and all other life forms in the past and present lie embedded in an invisible Planetary Mind Field that pervades the entire Earth. The creative activity of the Mind Field is responsible for the appearance and evolution of all forms of life on planet Earth." He further posits that as we decipher the genetic blueprints for various life forms, we should look at them as "God's own language" rather than as things created by chance. He incorporates knowledge from several scientific fields to bolster this theory. MacMurray & Beck, 1996, 268 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$24.95.

Skin Deep: An A-Z of Skin Disorders, Treatments, and Health—Carol A. Turkington and Jeffrey S. Dover. What are the best ways to treat acne? What is Sturge-Weber syndrome? What are the benefits of cryosurgery? These and hundreds of other questions about the skin are answered in this encyclopedia of dermatological phenomena geared toward the consumer. Facts on File, 1996, 404 p., hardcover, \$40.00

Taming the Atom: The Emergence of the Visible Microworld—Hans Christian von Baeyer. Von Baeyer recounts the history and the current status of the atomic landscape without utilizing mathematical formulas. Instead, he creates for physicists and nonphysicists alike verbal pictures of atoms that scientists actually visualize in the laboratory using "taming" devices such as a "quantum eraser" and a "magic wrist" that senses the "surface roughness of the atomic landscape." Originally published in hardcover in 1992. Random, 1995, 239 p., color plates, paperback, \$15.00.

When the Air Hits Your Brain: Tales of Neurosurgery—Frank Vertosick Jr. Written in a breezy style, Vertosick's book recounts his odyssey from medical student to neurosurgeon. Rather than depict neurosurgeons as heroes and deities, as some others have done, Vertosick tries to bring the field into perspective. He does this by showing the grim circumstances under which he meets many patients and the painful decisions that each faces. His case studies are poignant, plentiful and usually fateful but ultimately do reflect the amazing achievements of neurosurgeons, as well as the methods by which they learn. Norton, 1996, 268 p., hardcover, \$23.00.

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- ☞ **An average head wind (10 miles per hour) can turn a 400-foot home run into a 370-foot out?**
- ☞ **A curve ball that seems to break over 14 inches never actually deviates from a straight line by more than 3½ inches?**
- ☞ **There is no such thing (except in softball) as a rising fastball?**
- ☞ **That a batted ball should be able to travel no farther than 545 feet?**

HarperPerennial,
1994, 142 pages
5¼" x 8", paperback, \$11.00

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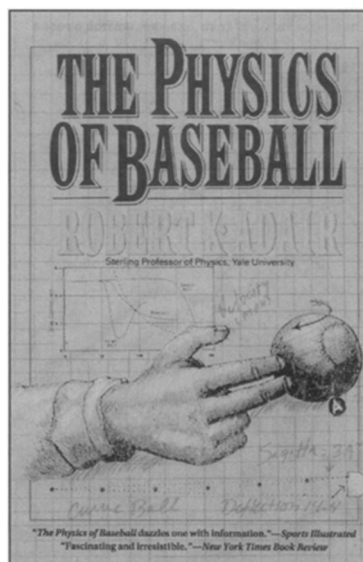
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