

Books

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Blind Watchers of the Sky: The People and Ideas That Shaped Our View of the Universe—Rocky Kolb. By combining the biographies of the most noteworthy astronomers and astrophysicists throughout time, such as Tycho Brahe, Johannes Kepler, Albert Einstein and Edwin Hubble, Kolb provides an eclectic, eccentric, and riveting account of the rise of cosmology. He enthusiastically tells the story of each of the many individuals most influential in forming our current view of the universe and intertwines each theory and philosophy with those before and after it, to show the transgression of ideas. Addison-Wesley, 1996, 338 p., hardcover, \$25.00.

The Herb Gardener: A Guide for All Seasons—Susan McClure. Which herbs grow best in a shady spot? How often should rosemary be watered? What are the best ways to lay out an herb garden? In five sections outlining everything from what an herb is and how to identify specific varieties to where to put an herb garden and how to grow herbs year-round, this guidebook addresses topics relevant to successful herb gardening for years to come. Among these topics are preservation techniques, container gardens, mulching, interplanting, propagation, and pest control. Storey Comm., 1996, 236 p., color photos & illus., hardcover, \$29.95.

More Rapid Math Tricks and Tips: 30 Days to Number Mastery—Edward H. Julius. The many fans of Julius' earlier work should be satisfied with this sequel, which sets forth 54 brand-new ways to sharpen one's math skills. He presents tips on each of the basic methods of calculation, thoroughly explains each technique, and offers more than 1,400 practice problems. As before, he suggests a 30-day program in which the reader studies two tricks a day. Weekly quizzes and a final exam help track progress. Wiley, 1996, 226 p., paperback, \$12.95.

Osler's Web: Inside the Labyrinth of the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Epidemic—Hillary Johnson. In what has already become a controversial text, Johnson relays case after case of a disease whose name has evolved from the Lake Tahoe disease or Yuppie flu to its current moniker, chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS). Along the way, she chronicles the reactions, research, and trends associated with this disease. Johnson has herself recovered from CFS, a disease with symptoms that include fatigue, short-term memory loss, muscle aches, persistent headaches, and seizures. She asserts that available evidence, such as she presents here, indicates that a virus potentially as infectious as AIDS is afoot and that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will not acknowledge it. In fact, many medical professionals believe CFS is a psychosomatic disorder. Crown, 1996, 720 p., hardcover, \$30.00.

Raptors: The Birds of Prey—Scott Weidensaul. The author conveys his enthusiasm for raptors in this engaging tome that specifically identifies and explores virtually every aspect of the life and lore of diurnal raptors, including hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures. Weidensaul delves into their evolution, taxonomy, behavior, courtship, breeding, nesting, migration, and environmental threats. Lyons & Burford, 1996, 382 p., color and b&w photos and illus., hardcover, \$40.00.

Science Explained: The World of Science in Everyday Life—Colin A. Ronan, ed. A concise, heavily illustrated answer book for questions about the basic principles of science. Typical questions are What bonds atoms together to make molecules? Why is carbon so important? What is genetic engineering? How does the human brain work? This reference is especially valuable for satisfying the curiosity of young people. Originally published in hardcover in 1993. H Holt & Co, 1996, 240 p., color photos and illus., paperback, \$22.50.

The Science of Words—George A. Miller. In this update of his celebrated book about the history of psycholinguistics. Miller uses PET scans and early word association tests, among other things to show how words, language, thought, and the human brain interrelate and how the mind organizes and separates syntactic families of nouns, modifiers, and verbs in different ways. With an emphasis on the lexical component of language, he contends that every word has three components—a concept, an utterance, and a syntactic role. Originally published in hardcover in 1991. Sci Am Library, 1996, 276 p., color and b&w photos and illus., paperback, \$19.95.

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