

# Books

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**After Thought: The Challenge to Human Thinking**—James Bailey. A new revolution is upon us, says Bailey—one in which computers operate in parallel instead of sequentially, as they do now. This advance will make it possible for millions of data to interact at once, allowing computers to ascend to a level of reasoning beyond human capacity, asserts this former executive at Thinking Machines Corp., where a 64,000 processor parallel supercomputer was developed. Here, Bailey articulates the implications of this technology and how people will have to adapt in order to accept and use parallel computers. Basic, 1996, 277 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$25.00.

**The Artful Universe: The Cosmic Source of Human Creativity**—John D. Barrow. Although science has generally left art to be admired rather than explained, Barrow posits that the structure of the universe, such as its environments and its astronomical appearance, has had a deep-seated effect on our senses and sensibilities. He carefully builds his case by beginning with broad arguments that show which features of Earth influence the structure and behavior of living things and how our interpretations of the stars and the sky influenced our concepts of time and determinism. Originally published in hardcover in 1995. Back Bay, 1996, 274 p., color plates and b&w illus., paperback, \$17.95.

**A Dose of Sanity: Mind, Medicine, and Misdiagnosis**—Sydney Walker III. A practicing neuropsychiatrist assails the psychiatric profession, asserting that in a preponderance of cases medical problems are not explored and diagnoses are based solely on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, a listing of behavioral symptoms and their associated disorders. Through numerous case studies, Walker introduces patients who were diagnosed with everything from hyperactivity to depression to psychosis, when in fact they were suffering from exposure to carbon monoxide, a hyperthyroid condition, or even a brain tumor, among many others. Walker explores why this kind of cursory treatment occurs and what you can do to avoid misdiagnoses—and perhaps get at the root of what ails you. Wiley, 1996, 260 p., hardcover, \$19.95.

**Frontiers of Complexity: The Search for Order in a Chaotic World**—Peter Coveney and Roger Highfield. The authors of *The Arrow of Time* rejoin forces to expand the horizon of complexity beyond chaos theory to its manifestations in fields such as chemistry, physics, biology, and computer science. Coveney and Highfield explain complexity's mathematical basis and then show how it provides a new understanding of the behavior of interacting units. For instance, how do snowflakes turn into avalanches, or neurons into thoughts? Originally published in hardcover in 1995. Fawcett, 1996, 462 p., color plates and b&w illus., paperback, \$15.00.

**How Brains Think: Evolving Intelligence, Then and Now**—William H. Calvin. When one cannot rely on the obvious, intelligence comes into play, notes theoretical neurophysiologist Calvin. Intelligence is making decisions involving the creation and rejection of alternatives and how one steers oneself from one topic to the next. But how does this happen? Calvin draws on studies of intelligence not only by psychologists, but by people in the fields of ethnology, evolutionary biology, linguistics, and neuroscience to try to understand it. After considering our evolutionary heritage and intelligence, Calvin describes "the mental machinery" needed for language. His discussion evolves into a consideration of the problems of convergent and divergent thinking and how Darwinism applies to them. A final chapter discusses what is necessary for artificial intelligence, based on these precepts. Basic, 1996, 184 p., hardcover, \$20.00.

**No Germs Allowed!: How to Avoid Infectious Diseases at Home and on the Road**—Winkler G. Weinberg. Many people concern themselves with infectious diseases only when traveling abroad, not realizing that some of the same infectious diseases thrive in the United States as well. In this preventive guidebook, Weinberg outlines hundreds of infections, how and where they are acquired, and how to avoid getting them. Though he devotes considerable space to bacterial threats in other countries and to the relative importance of various vaccinations, he also focuses on the threats of food poisoning, strep infections, tick-borne infections, Legionnaires' disease, tuberculosis, and sexually transmitted diseases. Rutgers U Pr, 1996, 285 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$16.95.

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