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The Cerebral Code: Thinking a Thought in the Mosaics of the Mind—William H. Calvin. In this book, unlike some of his broader, earlier works, Calvin homes in on his theory of what goes on in the brain to produce human consciousness and intelligence. Calvin asserts that "starting with shuffled memories no better than the jumble of our nighttime dreams, a mental image can evolve . . . into a sentence to speak aloud." The brain's equivalents of a half dozen essential features in Darwinian theory fuel this process and help dictate how we react and how we think. The circuits of our cerebral cortex help us clone the firing pattern within a hundred-element hexagonal column and in turn produce an idea. MIT Pr, 1996, 256 p., b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$22.50.

Footsteps in the Jungle: Adventures in the Scientific Exploration of the American Tropics—Jonathan Maslow. Remembering a time when scientists used nature as their laboratory, Maslow recounts the stories of 13 scientists who traversed the tropical regions of the Americas. Their studies of the unique flora and fauna churned out theories ranging from natural selection to disproving the existence of mermaids. Readers can explore new territory with the likes of Alexander von Humboldt, who began to formulate the concept of ecology and ornithologist Alexander Skutch's study of bird behavior. I R Dee, 1996, 308 p., b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$27.50.

The Fossil Trail: How We Know What We Think We Know About Human Evolution—Ian Tattersall. The head of the anthropology department at the American Museum of Natural History recounts how we have reconstructed our human evolutionary tree on the basis of interpretations of the greatest fossil discoveries ever made: the Laetoli footprints, Lucy, and Turkana Boy, among others. He explores dating techniques used over the years, from fluorine analysis to human mitochondrial DNA, and relates them to our knowledge of 2 million years of hominid development. Originally published in hardcover in 1995. OUP, 1996, 276 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$14.95.

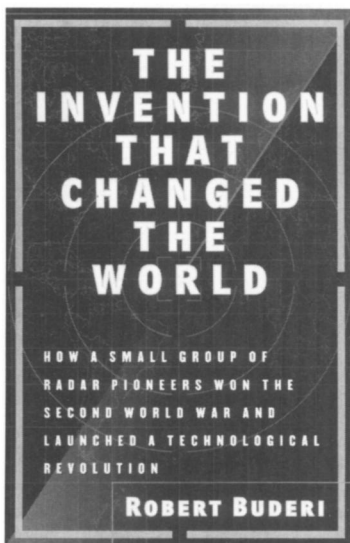
The Home Environmental Sourcebook: 50 Environmental Hazards to Avoid When Buying, Selling, or Maintaining a Home—Andrew N. Davis and Paul E. Schaffman. Asbestos, radon, and lead-based paint are not only hazardous to one's health, they are also likely to be financial burdens as well. An environmental attorney and an engineer team up to assess the risks of 50 such dangers. Background information is followed by ways of determining whether there is a problem, the effect it may have on you, and the regulations in place regarding each problem. The authors also guide the reader to agencies that can help. Owl, 1996, 372 p., paperback, \$19.95.

No More Kidney Stones—John S. Rodman, Cynthia Seidman, and Rory Jones. Equated with "childbirth or surgery without anesthesia," passing kidney stones is an excruciating ordeal. The authors follow the fundamentals of urology with a wealth of information about who is most susceptible to kidney stones, how stones are treated, and how to prevent them. In fact, dietary dos and don'ts make up almost half of the book. Wiley, 1996, 225 p., paperback, \$14.95.

Principles of Gardening: The Practice of the Gardener's Art—Hugh Johnson. Rather than assemble an encyclopedic picture book of plants, renowned gardener and author Johnson focuses on the whole garden, describing its heritage and how it works. He does this by explaining companion planting and the elements of soil, along with other effects of nature. He also touches on a wide range of plants and specific types of gardens, such as herb, kitchen, and perennial. Another unique aspect is the history of a variety of plants and of gardening through the ages and around the world. S&S, 1996, 272 p., color photos, hardcover, \$40.00.

Weird Water and Fuzzy Logic: More Notes of a Fringe Watcher—Martin Gardner. His regular column in *THE SKEPTICAL INQUIRER* serves as Gardner's forum for stamping out pseudoscience. This collection of some of those columns plus 30 book reviews features cranks as well as credible scientists and science. Gardner reports how Margaret Meade was duped by two Samoan women into believing that Samoans are sexually free-wheeling and how the gospel of Marianne Williamson influences people but causes her to lose friends. Prometheus Bks, 1996, 260 p., hardcover, \$25.95.

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Simon & Schuster, 1996
575 pages, 6 1/4" x 9 1/4", hardcover, \$30.00

THE INVENTION THAT CHANGED THE WORLD is the great and largely untold story of the colorful scientists who created the microwave radar systems that not only helped the Allies win World War II but set off a veritable explosion of technological advances.

The story begins in September 1940, with the U.S. arrival of a team of British scientists and the cavity magnetron, a revolutionary new source of microwave energy that was to pave the way for radar systems small enough to fit on planes and ships. Developed in the top-secret radiation lab on the campus of MIT, microwave radars eventually helped destroy Japanese warships in the Pacific and enabled Allied bombers to "see" through cloud cover over Germany and Japan.

Besides capturing all the drama of the race to develop radar, *THE INVENTION THAT CHANGED THE WORLD* follows the exciting postwar careers of the radar scientists as they applied the knowledge gained from their wartime work in many different fields. Radar veterans were instrumental in creating the field of radio astronomy and discovering nuclear magnetic resonance, the transistor, and the maser. In the continuing push to develop early warning systems during the Cold War, radar scientists helped create the basis for digital computer memories. In very practical ways, radar and its spin-offs continue to enhance our lives, whether by controlling civilian air traffic, helping to forecast the weather, or providing physicians with powerful diagnostic tools.

—from Simon & Schuster



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