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A Commotion in the Blood: Life, Death, and the Immune System—Stephen S. Hall. Ever since William Coley, a physician in New York City some 80 years ago, tried to defeat cancerous tumors by manipulating his patients' immune systems, immunotherapy has advanced in fits and starts. Vaccinations like those for polio and smallpox are probably the most successful attempts to get the body to defend itself against disease. With the discovery of cytokines and advances in molecular genetics, immunotherapy, as it relates to cancer, has moved forward. Hall provides a historical account, as well as prognostications for the future of immunotherapy and the control of cancer. H Holt & Co., 1997, 544 p., hardcover, \$30.00.

Creativity: Flow and the Psychology of Discovery and Invention—Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi. Through interviews with 91 notable creative people, Csikszentmihalyi unfolds his theory of flow, seeks to explain what makes these people creative, and offers insight into how creativity can be cultivated. Flow is a state of consciousness associated with a feeling of concentration and deep enjoyment. The people profiled have succeeded in making flow a part of their lives. In showing how they did so, the author points out the importance of environment to creative accomplishments. Originally published in hardcover in 1996. HarperPerennial, 1997, 456 p., paperback, \$14.00.

Dog's Best Friend: Annals of the Dog-Human Relationship—Mark Derr. More homes in the United States today are inhabited by dogs than by children. Derr explores the services of dogs as transporters, guides, sentinels, and companions, both throughout history and in the present, in an effort to define the "culture of the dog." Outspoken on the issue of inbreeding, Derr makes a case for paying more attention to the personality of an animal than to "obsessing" about its pedigree. Benefiting from the author's numerous anecdotes and extensive investigation, the reader gains a keener understanding of the needs and talents of dogs. H Holt & Co., 1997, 380 p., hardcover, \$25.00.

Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment—Sandra Steingraber. By using information available under the right-to-know laws, Steingraber draws concrete links between environmental contamination and cancer. She illustrates patterns of cancer incidence in specific geographic areas and identifies questions that need answers. Using her home in Illinois as the "typical" ecological landscape, Steingraber focuses on agricultural practices since World War II, the threat of dioxin, and the ways in which wind and water carry pollutants from one place to another. A discussion of researchers' focus on finding cures for cancer rather than the sources of this disease round out this poignant volume. Addison-Wesley, 1997, 357 p., hardcover, \$24.00.

The Riddle of Scheherazade: And Other Amazing Puzzles, Ancient and Modern—Raymond Smullyan. This collection of puzzles based on the story of Scheherazade contains 225 Gödelian brain twisters, baffling paradoxes, metapuzzles, logic tricks, and number games. As originally described in the *Arabian Nights*, Scheherazade wins a stay of execution from her husband, the king, by teasing him with a story or puzzle every night for 1001 nights. Knopf, 1997, 224 p., hardcover, \$22.00.

Volcanoes: Crucibles of Change—Richard V. Fisher, Grant Heiken, and Jeffrey B. Hulen. This dense text weaves first-hand accounts of several eruptions with data about the various types of volcanoes and advances in volcanology. In addition to detailing the hows and whys of eruptions and the hazards to humans, animals, and the atmosphere, the authors discuss the benefits of volcanic soil and what volcanoes teach us about geothermal energy. A concluding chapter for the "Volcano Traveler" details 40 sites one can visit. Princeton U Pr, 1997, 317 p., b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$35.00.

Why We Age: What Science Is Discovering About the Body's Journey Through Life—Steven N. Austad. Zoologist Austad focuses here on the evolutionary reasons for aging and death, but he also goes a long way toward explaining the aging process. Skeptical of some new claims to extend life and of people who say they are 100 years old or more, Austad reveals what strides molecular biologists are making in longevity research. Explanations for why the life span of a U.S. citizen has increased 35 percent in the last 100 years, how animals age, and other puzzles are all covered. Wiley, 1997, 244 p., hardcover, \$24.95.

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Did You Know

- Eating too much broccoli could be deadly if you also take the popular blood thinner Coumadin (warfarin)?
- Grapefruit juice, when used to wash down certain antihistamines, immune suppressors, or blood pressure drugs, can cause concentrations of these powerful drugs to soar in the blood?
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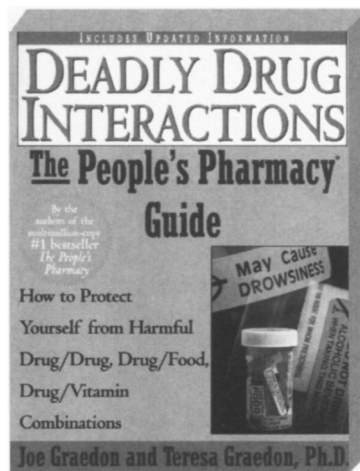
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