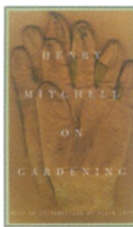


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Are We Unique? A Scientist Explores the Unparalleled Intelligence of the Human Mind—James Trefil. An outstanding science popularizer probes the arenas of computer science and neuroscience to assess our status as creatures who possess a unique cerebrum. While we now know that octopuses demonstrate intelligence, no other species is on a par with humans. For that matter, no computer will ever be able to replicate the human mind, says Trefil. He suggests, however, that computers possess a consciousness unique to machines, making computer “minds” feasible. Originally published in hardcover in 1997. Wiley, 1998, 242 p., paperback, \$14.95.



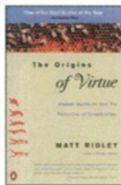
Henry Mitchell on Gardening—Henry Mitchell. This posthumous collection captures the spirit, wit, and sometimes ornery temperament of the renowned gardening columnist for the WASHINGTON POST known as “Earthman.” In these gems, snipped and ordered into monthly groupings, Mitchell imparts equal parts of entertainment and shrewd horticultural advice. He waxes poetic about Jefferson’s garden at Monticello and chastises the “slothful” gardener who scrimps on early blooming daffodils. HM, 1998, 243 p., hardcover, \$24.00.



The Magical Maze: Seeing the World Through Mathematical Eyes—Ian Stewart. People do not usually associate the shape of plants or how animals move with mathematics, but Stewart explains that these are exactly the types of things that occupy the minds of mathematicians. He illustrates this through puzzles and games and discussion of topics as varied as Turing machines, kaleidoscopes, and Steiner networks. He also explains how to solve puzzles the algorithmic way, the artistic way, and the Army way. Wiley, 1998, 268 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$24.95.



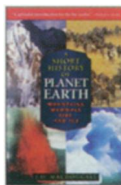
The Meaning of It All: Thoughts of a Citizen-Scientist—Richard P. Feynman. This book transcribes a series of lectures Feynman delivered at the University of Washington at Seattle in 1963. Focusing on more of the sociological impact of science on politics and religion, than on the nuts-and-bolts approach, these discussions portray Feynman’s acute ability to communicate to the nonspecialist. The first selection evaluates why absolute certainty will always elude us; the second focuses on the ethical issues relating to religion and the impact of science on those pursuits. In the third lecture, Feynman turns his attention to pseudoscientific topics, the validity of faith healing, and his argument that an honest politician would be an ineffective one. Addison-Wesley, 1998, 133 p., hardcover, \$22.00.



The Origins of Virtue: Human Instincts and the Evolution of Cooperation—Matt Ridley. Are we truly selfish or genuinely kind? Ridley deftly applies the concepts of evolutionary psychology to the problem and argues that we are both—we are subconsciously motivated by selfish instincts, but those instincts can create nice, not nasty, people in the real world as we maneuver for position. Cooperation, Ridley contends, may have evolved as part of our nature, enabling us to innately calculate advantage when exchanging goods. Ridley explores the political implications of his thesis and tackles economics from a Darwinian perspective. Originally published in hardcover in 1997. Penguin, 1998, 295 p., paperback, \$13.95.



Pain Free: A Revolutionary Method for Stopping Chronic Pain—Pete Egoscue with Roger Gittines. According to Egoscue, most chronic pain problems stem from a lack of motion. He notes that many people never extend their arms beyond the confines of a small box: We type, we drive, we cook at a stove. Therefore, when we have occasion to reach to a high shelf, for example, this “unusual” movement causes pain. An introduction to human physiology is followed by a range of exercises called motioncises that focuses on posture and moving the body as designed. Egoscue’s success stories include professional athletes and stroke victims saddled with back, hip, foot, and other problems. Bantam, 1998, 296 p., b&w photos, hardcover, \$23.95.



A Short History of Planet Earth: Mountains, Mammals, Fire, and Ice—J.D. MacDougall. Novice geologists will get a taste of the field and its basic principles in this summary of the formation of Earth and the development of life, from the Archean to the Cenozoic to the present. Scientific methods of reading ancient rocks and fossils are explained to give the reader a command of the geologic and biological underpinnings of the modern world. Originally published in hardcover in 1996. Wiley, 1998, 266 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$14.95.



Time: A Traveler's Guide—Clifford A. Pickover. By first establishing the nature of time, Pickover addresses the feasibility of constructing a time machine. He points out that we have already verified that objects traveling at high speeds age more slowly than stationary ones. With this mind, the idea of a time machine seems not to violate any known laws of physics. Chapters are introduced by the story of a future musician seeking the opportunity to hear Chopin live, which then leads to discussion of the various elements of time and time travel. These include light cones, cosmic moment lines, Lorentz transformations, Minkowskian spacetimes, and Gödel universes. Ingenious computer programs—Pickover’s forte—enhance the approachable, often witty text. OUP, 1998, 285 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$25.00.

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