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**Ariadne's Clue: A Guide to the Symbols of Humankind**—Anthony Stevens. This psychiatrist seeks to explain the “evolution and psychology of symbolism” based on a Jungian worldview. Stevens begins by considering how symbols are brought into being and why humans seek them out. In the second half of the book, he follows with a “thesaurus” of symbols organized by topic: The Physical Environment; Culture and Psyche; People, Animals, and Plants; and The Body. The variety of interpretations across time and cultures ultimately reveals psychological roots. Originally published in Great Britain in 1998. Princeton U Pr, 1999, 464 p., illus., hardcover, \$29.95.



**Cradle of Life: The Discovery of Earth's Earliest Fossils**—J. William Schopf. Six years ago, when Schopf identified the first Precambrian fossils, his field expanded by about 3 billion years. Up until then, paleontologists were stuck in the 550 million years of the Phanerozoic periods, representing about 15 percent of life's history. Schopf chronicles his detection of microorganisms 3.5 billion years in age and the subsequent effort to use the find to comprehend the origins of life. Ample background and his autobiographical perspective together familiarize readers with cutting-edge paleontology and theories on the origin and evolution of life from microbial life forms. Princeton U Pr, 1999, 367 p., b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$29.95.



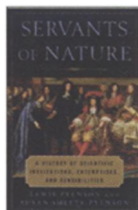
**Greenhouse: The 200-Year History of Global Warming**—Gale E. Christianson. Jean-Baptiste-Joseph Fourier hypothesized in the early 1800s that Earth's atmosphere acts as a “bell jar,” absorbing the sun's warmth and reradiating it downward to the surface. Christianson, a historian, begins with Fourier and then summarizes events that possibly encouraged Earth's warming. He blends the scientific principles of global warming with stories of the onslaught of the industrial revolution and accounts of influential figures. A recap of last year's international conference on global warming at Kyoto updates the subject. Walker, 1999, 305 p., illus., hardcover, \$25.00.



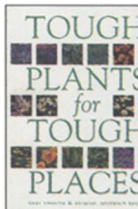
**The International Encyclopedia of Science and Technology**—Steve Luck, ed. Concise, easy definitions of common terminology and concepts applicable to both the physical and biological sciences entail more than 6,500 total entries. The book is loaded with illustrations that help explain difficult scientific concepts. Cross-references complete the picture. A 12,000-year chronology concludes the volume along with conversion tables and charts on taxonomy, rock types, largest islands, etc. OUP, 1999, 471 p., color illus/b&w photos, hardcover, \$49.95.



**The Meme Machine**—Susan Blackmore. Memes refers to anything that is learnt—be it skills, habits, theories, songs, or stories—through imitation. Blackmore applies memetics to the advancement of culture, language, and even the “design of our minds.” Fundamentally, she posits that it is our ability to imitate that differentiates us from other animals. The progression of memes can be likened to natural selection. Blackmore asserts that in this way memes are like genes. In a memetic style of reasoning, she considers why we talk so much, why we are attracted to our mates, and why our brains are so big. In conclusion, she applies memetics to one of the deepest question of all: What is self? OUP, 1999, 264 p., hardcover, \$25.00.

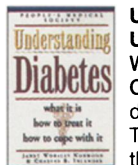


**Servants of Nature: A History of Scientific Institutions, Enterprises, and Sensibilities**—Lewis Pyenson and Susan Sheets-Pyenson. This sweeping history encompasses the scientific pursuits of societies from antiquity to the present day. Surveys of a broad assortment of facilities of higher learning and of exploration techniques from around the world link the scientific method with differing cultures. Scientific goals have blended with industrial and military goals over time, the author demonstrates. Norton, 1999, 496 p., b&w plates, hardcover, \$32.50.

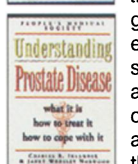


**Tough Plants for Tough Places**—Gary Vergine and Michael Jefferson-Brown. Some gardeners may be challenged by a giant shade tree that darkens underlying plants. Others may be vexed by arid conditions that fry vegetables and perennials.

Both cases and more are addressed here, as the authors help readers match plants to particularly harsh conditions. Garden tips and plans round out the volume. Written by British authors, the text reflects their native climate. Originally published in hardcover in 1997. Contemporary Bks, 1999, 256 p., color photos, paperback, \$22.95.



**Understanding Diabetes and Understanding Prostate Disease: What It Is How to Treat It How to Cope With It**—Charles B. Inlander and Janet Worsley Norwood. These books are produced by the nonprofit consumer-advocacy group—the People's Medical Society. For the benefit of those seeking straightforward yet informed data about two exceedingly common conditions, these references define all aspects of the problems and their associated symptoms. Details involving treatment, complementary therapies, and preventative measures clearly outline options for people affected by the two diseases. Both books Macmillan, 1999, 214/242 p., paperback, \$14.95 each.



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SCIENCE NEWS (ISSN 0036-8423) is published weekly on Saturday, except the last week in December, for \$49.50 for 1 year or \$88.00 for 2 years (foreign postage is \$6.00 additional per year) by Science Service, 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Preferred Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C., and additional mailing office. **POSTMASTER**: Send address changes to SCIENCE NEWS, P.O. Box 1925, Marion, Ohio 43305. Change of address: Four to six weeks' notice is required—old and new addresses, including zip codes, must be provided. Copyright © 1999 by Science Service. Title registered as trademark U.S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Printed in U.S.A. on recycled paper. ♻️ Reproduction of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS without written permission of the publisher is prohibited. For permission to photocopy articles, contact Copyright Clearance Center at 978-750-8400 (phone) or 978-750-4470 (fax).

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