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The historical accounts of the habits of cleanliness of some people, including kings and queens, are the best part of the book. Particularly interesting is the story of a battle won because one side used crude aseptic practices, while the enemy used none.

A large part of the book is given over to hygiene and is, unfortunately, repetitious of what the child has in school.

A timely addition to the book would have been some mention of the importance of saving water—a resource that may be in short supply as the population increases.

*Frances L. Behnke*  
Teachers College  
Columbia University  
New York

**THAT REMARKABLE CREATURE, THE SNAIL,** by Oscar Schisgall. 1970. Julian Messner, New York. 62 pp. \$3.95.

The author leads the young reader quickly through the history, anatomy, and life cycle of snails. He devotes the last part of the book to down-to-earth talk about finding (or buying) snails and studying their activities at home.

Indications of the actual size of the photographed snails and of their geographic origin would have been helpful; but perhaps that would have detracted from the beauty of the pictures and the readability of the text. This

is a book to arouse the interest of children in the study of an interesting animal.

*Richard E. Barthelemy*  
Bell Museum of Natural History  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis

**FIRST YOU CATCH A FLY,** by John D. Cunningham. 1970. McCall Publishing Co., New York. 88 pp. \$4.95.

This book about flies contains many facts, questions, and experiments. The contents are uneven. After discussing macroclimate and microclimate, for instance, the author is content to ask the reader, "What is the activity season of each type of fly?" and other questions of that sort. On the other hand, a fairly sophisticated experiment, with complete instructions, is one designed to reveal the taste threshold of flies given sugar. The author mentions that the experiments should be done humanely—but he does so in the middle of the book, where the caution is likely to go unnoticed or perhaps encountered after some experiments have been cruelly conducted.

It is difficult to decide what age group the author had in mind. The organization and presentation are elementary, but the vocabulary is more likely to be understood by junior or senior high school students, and much

of the humor is of the sort that adults appreciate.

Of the many line drawings, some complement the text nicely; however, many are inaccurate. A young person who could wade through the vocabulary and ignore the faulty illustrations may find this book interesting.

*Alan R. von Ahlefeldt*  
Roy J. Wasson High School  
Colorado Springs

**ESKIMOS: PEOPLE OF ALASKA,** by Patricia Miles Martin. 1970. Parents' Magazine Press, New York. 64 pp. \$3.47.

This is an engaging story of the Inuit, "the strong good-natured Real People who have found a way to live in the beautiful, cold lands of the Far North." The information-packed book about Alaska, the Eskimo, and the Aleut has a simple and charming style. Timely for both conservationists and teachers, it gives an illustration of a way of life on the verge of change.

Today we think much about law and order. How refreshing was the Inuits' way of dealing with violators! "If a man broke a law all the people gathered around him and sang songs about the bad things he had done. They made fun of him. To the Eskimo it was a great punishment to be shamed by his people." And we find that "the land where

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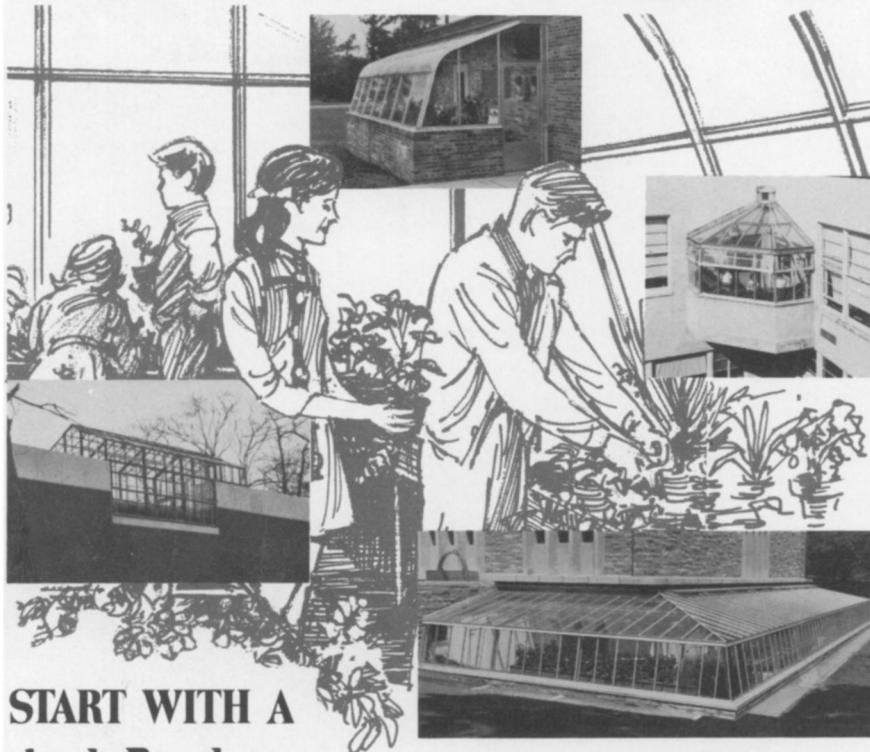
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the Real People lived did not give them much to work with. But the little that it gave was used wisely. Nothing was wasted. No other people on earth have done so much with so little."

Because Alaska—our last great frontier—is now in the midst of conflict between man and nature, we wonder how the Real People will feel when large numbers of outlanders arrive to profit from its rich resources. Can their land adjust to the ruthless and wounding oil rush? A feeling of sadness develops from reading this well-told tale.

Frances L. Behnke  
Teachers College  
Columbia University  
New York

**LIVING LIGHTS: THE MYSTERY OF BIOLUMINESCENCE**, by Alvin Silverstein and Virginia Silverstein, 1970. Golden Gate Junior Books, San Carlos, Calif. 43 pp. \$3.95.

The authors discuss, beautifully but simply, the light produced by objects in the galaxy as well as by terrestrial and marine animals and plants. The beginner is introduced to the chemistry of bioluminescence (luciferin; the ATP concept). Excellent graphics show the anatomic and physiologic mechanisms of light emittance. The terminology is limited but adequate. A concise index is included. The book is well written for intermediate-age children of average reading ability.

George C. Washington  
Indiana University  
Bloomington

**A HANDFUL OF SOIL**, by Seymour Simon. 1970. Hawthorn Books, New York. 63 pp. \$3.95.

This is a collection of experiments with soil, designed for children aged 8 to 11. Besides clear experiments, there are questions that encourage the child to go beyond the experiment. The book is readable; the illustrations are good. The materials needed for the experiments are simple, inexpensive, and usually available at home or in the classroom.

Lloyd M. Bennett  
Texas Woman's University  
Denton

**CELLS: THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF LIFE**, by Vicki Cobb; illustrated by Leonard Dank. 1970. Franklin Watts, Inc., New York. 61 pp. \$3.75.

This is a "first book" on cells for upper-elementary and junior high children. The reader is treated to a lucid, accurate description of the nature and function of various plant and animal cells. Differentiation, reproduction, and specialization are dealt with in an interesting, readable fashion. And the author avoids the pitfall that many