

Book Reviews

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rectly, may serve a similar purpose. If these books had been available when I was a student, I certainly would have used them.

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PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

SCIENCE EDUCATION AND ETHICAL VALUES

ed. by David Gosling and Bert Musschenga. 1985. Georgetown University Press (Washington, D.C. 20057), 118 p. \$6.25 softback.

In 1983, the World Council of Churches and the Free University of Amsterdam organized a workshop to discuss the integration of moral and ethical concerns into science education. This book is the proceedings of that workshop.

The introduction states that the speakers were experts on either theoretical questions such as moral reasoning and science methodology or on practical questions such as the training of teachers and the development of new teaching materials. The participants were all involved in science education or related disciplines. The introduction includes demographics about the participants and a preview of each of the papers presented. The next eight chapters are the papers from the workshop. They include presentations about: three models of science education and their implications for instruction; how religious beliefs might be relevant to scientific theories, research and policies; two major defects in science today—no philosophical model of the natural world and the failure to invest facts with value; how science education does and does not contribute to moral education; parallel models of moral reasoning and scientific reasoning; a model for teaching social issues in a science class with possible pitfalls; experiences teaching ethical issues in science classes; and why new ideas about teaching do and do not transfer successfully to the classroom. The next two chapters summarize discussions on science education and society and in universities. The last chapter is a report from the workshop including a summary of the issues surrounding science education and ethical issues,

aims for secondary education, identification of skills and competencies needed to achieve these aims, and implications and recommendations.

Because the book is the written proceedings of a spoken workshop, it has several bothersome aspects. Although each chapter is clearly written, the style of the book is uneven. The authors of the papers represent various disciplines, emphasize theoretical or practical perspectives, and come from different countries. Also, all readers may not have the knowledge base that the authors could assume was common to an invited audience. The summary of each paper in the introduction and in the discussions is redundant. Some statements are not as thoroughly supported as would be expected in a written work and some references are incomplete.

At this time, when the theme of Science-Technology-Society is being emphasized in science education, this collection of papers will not change tomorrow's class but will provide theory, rationale and challenge to those who teach science and to those who teach others to teach science.

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ZOOLOGY

SNAKES OF THE WORLD

by Chris Mattison. 1986. Facts on File Publications (460 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016). 190 p. \$17.95 hardback.

This well written, small volume will be an asset to the middle and high school life science classroom as well as the school library. It is in a style easily understood by the informed layman. The author is a member of the British and International Herpetological Societies and has been a lecturer on reptile keeping for more than 18 years. Topics included are snake morphology, reproduction, foods and feeding, defense, snake families, behavior, ecology and snakes and man. Because the book is designed for worldwide distribution, it does not particularly emphasize North American forms. It is not a field guide but rather an introduction to the study of snakes. The 127 photographs, of which nearly half are in color, add greatly to the appeal of the volume. Of particular interest and sometimes not included in such popular books are the simple diagrams of snake anatomy (pg. 45) and vestigial hind limbs of py-

thons and boas. The range maps of snake families will be of interest to the more serious amateur herpetologist. An up-to-date bibliography arranged by section will allow readers to expand their knowledge of snakes.

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