

Book Reviews

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AIDS

AIDS: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

by Margaret O. Hyde and Elizabeth H. Forsyth, M.D. Revised and expanded edition, 1987. Walker Co. (720 Fifth Ave. New York, NY 10019). 128 p., \$12.95 trade, \$13.85 reinforced.

The authors, Margaret Hyde and Elizabeth Forsyth, have written a very timely book. They devote nine chapters to discussing AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), a disease that has been labeled "The health threat of the century." Each chapter gives the reader supportive, illustrated statistics summarizing key components about AIDS and the effect it is having on target groups. The result is a book full of information readers need to know about AIDS.

Written for the lay person, several chapters warrant additional remarks. The second and third chapters are critical ones for the reader. They discuss AIDS from the perspective of known carriers. The plight of the men used as examples and the social stigma associated with AIDS becomes evident. The reader is able to identify with the carriers' guarded feelings and establish a personal, social response to situations that accompany this feared disease.

The fourth and seventh chapters are must reading to be better informed about the disease. There seems to be an epidemic of fear about associating with people who carry the AIDS virus. Through these chapters, which help sort fact and fiction, the fears that manifest from being uninformed are quelled.

The cause of AIDS, what it is like to have it and its future all are discussed in this short but information-laden book. Wherever AIDS education is

taught, copies of this book should be available for use.

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REPTILES

REPTILES-THEIR LATIN NAMES EXPLAINED

by A.F. Gotch. 1986. Blanford Press (Distributed in U.S. by Sterling Publishing Co. Inc., 2 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016. 176 p. \$24.95 hardback.

This small volume is the third in a series by the late A.F. Gotch; the preceding two dealt with explanations of the Latin names of mammals and birds. After some introductory chapters on scientific nomenclature and animal classification, including brief discussions of priority, homonyms, synonyms, tautonyms and similar topics, the author begins a survey of reptiles listing selected species and giving the Latin, Greek or other derivation of the name. Unfortunately, many North American forms are not included. The common name of the species *Lampropeltis getulius* is given as the milksnake rather than the king snake, so I think young American herpetologists who could benefit from this book might well be disappointed to find some of their favorites not included.

The objective of the book, to explain scientific names of reptiles, is a laudable one and is accomplished for those species included. A transliteration of the Greek alphabet, a bibliography, a glossary, a general index and indices of English and Latin names also are included.

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SCIENCE

SCIENCE IN SCHOOLS

ed. by J. Brown, A. Cooper, T. Horton, F. Toates and D. Zeldin. 1986. Open University Press (242 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA. 19106). 412 p. \$21.00 softback.

This book is a collection of 32 articles about science and the teaching of science. All were previously published in journals or as chapters in books, and all but two are contemporary, having been originally published within the last 10 years. They represent the work of 29 different authors or groups of authors, all highly credible.

The articles are organized into six groups. Those in the first group, written by scientists and philosophers of science, are about what constitutes knowledge in science. The second set is about science's place in a technological society and includes the classical lecture *The Two Cultures*, by C.P. Snow. The third section includes articles that address questions about what is taught in schools under the label of science.

The articles in the fourth group argue that science continues to have a legitimate place in the curriculum, based on the history of science education, the purposes for teaching science and the interactions between science and society. The teaching of science is discussed in the fifth section. Articles in this set include implications for teaching from research on cognitive development and on alternate conceptions and conceptual change. This section also includes articles on personality and attitudes toward science and

Michael Emsley is editor of the Book Review section of ABT. He is professor of biology at George Mason University and sits on the editorial board of the George Mason University Press. Emsley, who holds a B.S. and Ph.D. in zoology from the University of London, is an insect taxonomist currently working on a project to identify and classify a genus of katydids found only in Central and South America. Emsley is the author of *Butterfly Magic*, *Insect Magic* and *Cloudforests and Rainforests*. His address is: **Biology Department, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030**. This month's book reviews were obtained by the previous department editor.