

Science/Philosophy of Science

The Reenchantment of Science, edited by David Ray Griffin (SMN). SUNY Press, 1988, 172 pp., no price given, p/b. ISBN 0-88706-785-9. A book which should have been reviewed when it first came out! The editor's introduction is a particularly good overview of the origins of modern scientific thinking and points the way towards a constructive post-modern science exemplified in other essays by Bohm, Birch, Sheldrake, Harman, Krippner and others.

Nature's Numbers: Discovering Order and Pattern in the Universe, by Ian Stewart. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1995, 164 pp, £9.99 h/b, ISBN 0-297-81642.

The Periodic Kingdom: A Journey into the Land of the Chemical Elements, by Peter Atkins. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1995, 163 pp, £9.99 h/b, ISBN 0-297-81641-1.

Both of these books are published in the new Science Masters Series. The first is a readable tour of old and new mathematical patterns uncovered in the universe. The second is presented as an informative travel guide to the periodic table of elements.

Effects of Past Global Change on Life, National Research Council, National Academy Press, 1995, 250 pp., h/b, £40.95. ISBN 0-309-05127-4. A technical report in the series *Studies in Geophysics* designed to help provide a scientific framework to help in the evaluation of possible impacts of present and future global changes in the biosphere. Using the geological record, the articles assess the environmental impact of previous changes and upheavals and put forward recommendations for future research.

The Mystery of Physical Life, by E. L. Grant Watson. Floris Books, 1992 (1964). 210 pp, £7.99 p/b, ISBN 0-86315-145-0. Grant Watson's early scepticism about the abstract and exclusively rational dogmas of orthodox biology was encouraged by one of his Cambridge professors and his reading of Goethe, Steiner, Bergson and Whitehead. In this book he explores a metaphysics of biology which sees evolutionary stages as precipitating from an invisible dimension which can only be perceived beyond the range of normal senses and organs: '*an objective and all-enfolding reality which, existing in what may be thought of as a spiritual, discarnate universe of thought, is finding incarnation in this world that we perceive with our senses*' (p.187). In case this sounds speculative, I should stress that Grant Watson's ideas are based on facts and the need to find adequate explanations. Of considerable interest to all those looking for alternatives in biology.

Chaos, Rhythm and Flow in Nature, edited by William Forward and Andrew Wolpert. Floris Books 1993, 95 pp, £6.99 p/b, ISBN 0-86315-173-6. A series of essays on the title themes which show the need for a 'sensitive science across a number of disciplines and involving form production in nature, flow patterns in water and the heart, and the contribution of thinking to enhanced sense-perception.

Chaos and Catastrophe Theories, by Courtney Brown. Sage Publications 1995, 77 pp, £7.95 p/b, ISBN 0-8039-5847-1. A technical introduction to these fields.

The Last Three Minutes, by Paul Davies. Orion Publishing Group 1994, 162 pp, £4.99 p/b, ISBN 1-85799-336-5.

The Origin of the Universe, by John D. Barrow. Weidenfeld & Nicolson 1995, 150 pp, £4.99 p/b, ISBN 1-85799-355-7. Paperbacks of books reviewed by Max Payne in the last issue.

The Origin of Humankind, by Richard Leakey. Weidenfeld & Nicolson 1995, 171 pp, £4.99 p/b, ISBN 1-85799-334-9. A paperback edition of last year's Leakey book which considers not only biological origins, but also those of language and mind.

Science and Society: Tuberculosis, Tobacco, Poverty and Crime, by Sir John Crofton. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1995, 41 pp., £4.99, p/b. ISBN 0-297-81664-0. The Edinburgh Medal address from the Science Festival - a stimulating reflection on the extent to which scientific work has been applied to society in the areas considered.

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Medicine/Health

The Complete Family Guide to Homeopathy, by Dr. Christopher Hammond. Element Books 1995, 256 pp, £16.99 h/b, ISBN1-85230-748-X. Part of an excellent new series designed to bridge the gap between specialist knowledge and the short introductory text. Lavishly illustrated, the book gives an overview of the history and philosophy, the Materia Medica, practical application and an index of conditions and indications.

The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Essential Oils, by Julia Lawless. Element Books 1995, 256 pp, £16.99 h/b, ISBN1-85230-661-0. In the same series. Describes how the oils work and uses to which they are put. The bulk of the book is devoted to indications associated with particular oils. Comprehensive and authoritative.

Aroma Science: The Chemistry and Bioactivity of Essential Oils, by Dr. Maria Lis-Balchin. Amberwood, 1995, 108 pp., £4.99 p/b. ISBN 1-899308-03-2. The author is a senior lecturer at the South Bank University, where she has pioneered a new degree unit in this subject. Essential reading for those wishing to explore the scientific basis of the action of these oils.

The Hippocratic Oath Revisited, by J. W. Richter. Pentland Press Ltd., 1994, 71 pp, £5.95 p/b, ISBN1-85821-201-4. In the spirit of the Hippocratic Oath, the author formulates a corresponding set of guidelines for scientists and engineers which he then elaborates into a series of commandments such as 'Thou shalt not irreversibly pollute thine own habitat'.

The Church, Medicine and the New Age, edited by Sir James Watt. Churches' Council for Health and Healing, 1995, 148 pp., no price give, p/b. ISBN 0-9506990-2-0. The edited proceedings of a conference of the same title which critically examine new age trends in medicine, psychology, science, theology and yoga from a Christian standpoint. The most instructive contributions are by the editor and Michael Perry (*Idealism and Drift*). The essays illustrate the continuing need for dialogue between differing viewpoints in addressing contemporary issues of common concern such as relativistic viewpoints generated not only within new age philosophies but also from secular scepticism.

Complementary Medicine Today: Practitioners and Patients, by Ursula Sharma. Routledge, revised 1995 (1992), 237 pp, £13.99, ISBN0-415-04794-3. The author, professor of sociology at the University of Derby, provides a readable survey and discussion of the use and practice of complementary medicine. Anyone concerned with the social and political questions raised by the complementary approach will find this book highly relevant and well informed.

Gender, Work and Medicine, edited by Elianne Riska and Katarina Wegar. Sage 1993, 196 pp., £12.95 p/b. ISBN 0-8039-8903-2. Subtitled 'Women and the Medical Division of Labour',

this is a book which looks at the role of women in the modern medical profession and the subordination of nurses and midwives within health care structures.

Geopathic Stress: How Earth Energies Affect our Lives, by Jane Thurnell-Read. Element Books 1995, 130 pp, £7.99 p/b, ISBN1-85230-696-3. A level-headed introduction to this field, with sections on the nature of geopathic stress, how it affects the body, and how to detect then correct it. A good place to start for the beginner.

Principles of Holistic Therapy with Herbal Essences, by Dr. Dietrich Guemmel. Haug International, 3rd edition 1993, 268 pp, no price given p/b, ISBN 2-8043-4002-3. A highly original spiritual-scientific approach to the subject which sees the human being as a biocosmos. The first part describes the development of the human anatomical structures and their spiritual-mental-sense functions. The second elaborates the special relationship between plants and humans, while the third describes applications of various oils as skin therapy. A book as much for biologists as medical practitioners.

Complementary Medicine and the European Community, edited by George Lewith and David Aldridge. C. W. Daniel Company Ltd. 1991, 158 pp, £7.95 p/b, ISBN 0-85207-234-1. Originally written as articles in *Complementary Medical Research* prior to 1992, this volume gives an excellent idea of differing attitudes and uses of complementary medicine throughout the EU.

The Infinitesimal Dose: The scientific roots of homoeopathy, by Dr. Colin Lessell. C. W. Daniel Company Ltd. 1994, 128 pp, £9.95 p/b, ISBN 0-85207-276-7. A specialist enquiry into the nature and workings of homoeopathy which draws together many threads in order to propose a detailed theory of imprinted water as a comprehensive hypothesis.

Cure Craft: Traditional Folk Remedies and Treatment from Antiquity to the Present Day, by Dr. Keith Souter. C.W. Daniel Company Ltd. 1995, 239 pp, £9.95 p/b, ISBN 0-85207-282-1. An intriguing book by a GP who found himself reassessing his folk roots in the oral Highland tradition. He surveys the field historically, then provides an A-Z of remedies. Entries include magico-medical and traditional cures, and even invocations to special saints. He wisely cautions readers about the advisability of applying certain treatments.

The Dance between Joy and Pain, by Dr. Mansukh Patel & Rita Goswami RGN. Life Foundation School of Therapeutics, Maristowe House, Dover Street, Bilston, West Midlands WV14 6AL 1995, 254 pp, £6.50 p/b, ISBN 1-873606-07-9. A practical self-help book which gives guidance about understanding and working with emotions, drawing out strategies from real life stories.

Moon Time: The Art of Harmony with Nature and Lunar Cycles, by Johanna Paungger and Thomas Poppe. C. W. Daniel Co., 1993, 375 pp, £9.95 p/b, ISBN 0-85207-284-8. A book of folk wisdom from the Tyrol, distilling the experience of many generations of orally transmitted knowledge about living in harmony with natural rhythms and the phases and position of the moon. Contains advice on health conditions, timing of therapies, diet, rhythm of organs and even the timing of building work. All this information is meant to awaken the intuition to a sensitivity of the correct individual rhythms.

Trance Dance: The Dance of Life, by Frank Natale. Element Books 1995, 116 pp, £14.99 p/b & CD, ISBN 1-85230-702-1. A CD and book based on the Shamanic practice of trance dancing as healing activity.

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Philosophy/Religion

Ultimate Visions: Reflections on the Religions We Choose, edited by Martin Forward. Oneworld Publications 1995, 288 pp, £9.95 p/b, ISBN 1-85168-100-0. An unusual book in which over 25 scholars reflect on their own commitment and the way in which this has led them in the direction of inter-faith dialogue. The mixture of personal and expository is very engaging and helps the reader appreciate the various ways in which belief and everyday life are integrated.

The Great Heresy, by Arthur Guirdham (ex-SMN). C. W. Daniel & Co., 1993 (1977), 186 pp, £7.95 p/b, ISBN 0-85207-271-6. Readers may know of Arthur Guirdham's extraordinary saga with the Cathars and apparent reincarnation. This is his excellent book on their history and beliefs of the Cathars, which contains a second part allegedly received directly from the discarnate entities featured in his other books.

Founders of Constructive Postmodern Philosophy, by David Ray Griffin (SMN) et al. SUNY Press, 1993, £16.95 p/b, ISBN 0-7914-1334-9. Leading beyond the *cul de sac* of deconstructionism, this volume contains an introductory overview by the editor and stimulating essays on Peirce, James, Bergson, Whitehead and Hartshorne. Curious readers unfamiliar with these thinkers will find no better place to start.

Alasdair MacIntyre: Critic of Modernity, by Peter McMylor. Routledge 1994, 224 pp, no price given p/b, ISBN 0-415-04427-8. Traces the Christian, Marxist and classical influences on MacIntyre's thought and describes his moral critique of modern liberal societies.

Pluralism, by Gregor McLennan. Open University Press 1995, 116 pp, £8.99 p/b, £30.00 h/b, ISBN 0-335-19154-1. An analysis of this key concept in the social sciences which insists on a plurality of interpretative perspectives rather than a single one. Contains careful discussion of the relationship between pluralism, diversity and relativism, always insisting that critical rationality can assess the validity of rival claims.

The Mirror of Existence, by Dr. Christine Page. C. W. Daniel & Co, 1995, 136 pp, £7.25 p/b, ISBN 0-85207-294-5. Subtitled 'Stepping into Wholeness', this book contains a wealth of guidance and exercises to help develop all aspects of our being and capacity to know. It is based on the premise that our inner thought processes direct our outer experiences and that real change must therefore start from inside.

Thresholds: Near-Life Experiences, by Gabriel Bradford Millar. Hawthorn Press 1995, 172 pp, no price given p/b, ISBN 1-869-890-68X. A book of transformative experiences or breakthroughs which makes inspiring reading and is designed to encourage the reader to trust their own inner life.

Point of Power: A Relationship with Your Soul, by Kay Snow-Davis. Element Books 1995, 104 pp, £7.99 p/b, ISBN 1-85230-633-5. A new psychological typology which uses the metaphors of root, trunk, branches and leaves to invite the reader to self-assessment. It then explores the nature of these types and ways in which they can really understand each other.

A Sense of the Divine, by James M. Gustafson. T & T Clark 1994, 176 pp, £16.95 h/b, ISBN 0-567-09712-9. Develops a theocentric perspective on nature which evokes in us a sense of the sublime or divine, then discusses the inevitable ambiguity in our responses and choices; this, however, is no excuse for inaction - we are called upon to be 'intentional participants' and to 'relate all things to each other in ways that concur with their relations to God'.

Religious Truth For Our Time, by William Montgomery Watt. Oneworld 1995, 109 pp, £5.95 p/b, ISBN 1-85168-102-7. The author, a Christian who is Emeritus Professor in the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies in the University of Edinburgh, has written a thoughtful account of the role of religions in our time. He looks at the limitations of language and patterns of perception, traces the unfolding of the monotheistic tradition and analyses the difficulties faced by religions in a predominantly secular age. Accessible and stimulating.

The Mediators, by John Macquarrie. SCM Press 1995, 171 pp, £12.95 p/b, ISBN 0-334-02621-0. The Mediators are nine of the great figures of world religion and philosophy: Moses, Zoroaster, Lao-zu, Buddha, Confucius, Socrates, Krishna, Jesus and Mohammed. Writing as a Christian professor of divinity, the author's intention is to promote interfaith dialogue. His conclusions are particularly useful as they summarise his findings under the headings of myth and legend, history, teaching and theology of mediation, with a final section on pluralism and its limitations.

The Elements of The I Ching, by Stephen Karcher. Element Books 1995, 184 pp, £5.99 p/b, ISBN 1-85230-701-3. A clear introduction which provides a good accompaniment to the main Element text reviewed last year.

Serpent of Fire: A Modern View of Kundalini, by Darrel Irving. Samuel Weiser, Inc. 1995, 229 pp, \$14.95 p/b, ISBN 0-87728-830-5. Introduction by Gene Kieffer.

A Kundalini Catechism, by Gopi Krishna. Kundalini Research Foundation, 1995, 94pp., \$6, p/b.

The first book is an up-to-date introduction which draws on the author's own experience as well as reading. It portrays the downside of kundalini as madness and contains two interviews with Gopi Krishna, the best known exponent of kundalini philosophy. The second book is a simple question and answer format on the essentials of kundalini. Also recently published by KRF, a booklet entitled *How Enlightenment Could be Verified*.

Earth Mysteries, by Philip Heselton. Element 1995, 112 pp, £9.99 p/b, ISBN 1-85230-714-5.

Native American Traditions, by Arthur Versluis (SMN). Element 1994, 96 pp, £9.99 p/b, ISBN 1-85230-719-6, £12.99 h/b ISBN 1-85230-572-X.

The Celtic Tradition, by Caitlin Matthews. Element 1995, 112 pp, £9.99 p/b, ISBN 1-85230-709-9.

The Arthurian Tradition, John Matthews. Element 1994, 96 pp, £9.99 p/b, ISBN 1-85230-713-7.

All these books are part of a new beautifully illustrated series. The text are written by acknowledged scholars and authorities in an accessible style which conveys the main features of the tradition. Highly recommended as informative introductions.

The Mystery of Numbers, by Annemarie Schimmel. Oxford University Press 1993, 314 pp, \$22 h/b, ISBN 0-19-506303-1.

Spirituality by Numbers, by Georg Feuerstein. Jeremy Tarcher, Inc. 1994, 252 pp, \$11.95 p/b, ISBN 0-877477-765-8.

Both of these books by renowned scholars are treasure troves of information about the symbolic and spiritual significance of numbers. Schimmel covers their history with special emphasis on the Pythagoreans, Gnosis, Cabala, Islamic Mysticism and mediaeval number symbolism. This is followed by a 200-page illustrated dictionary of numbers, starting with one and going selectively up to 10,000. The structure of Georg Feuerstein's book is rather different, even though he too begins at one and works upwards. He illustrates his theme by taking specific examples like the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism, the Five Bodily Sheaths in Hinduism, the Seven Lights of the Zohar and the Fourteen Stations of the Cross. The result is an equally fascinating compendium.

My Way: The Way of The White Clouds, by Osho. Element Books 1995 (1978), 267 pp, £8.99 p/b, ISBN 1-85230-699-8.

Returning to the Source, by Osho. Element Books 1995 (1976), 252 pp, £8.99 p/b, ISBN 1-85230-700-5.

The first book serves as an introduction to the teaching of Osho, whose image is gradually being refurnished (remember Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh?) It is a series of discourses in response to questions, with titles like 'Dropping the Ego Now', 'The Mystery of Relationship' and 'God is in Search of You'. The style is direct and incisive, using anecdotes for apposite illustration. The second book is a series of penetrating talks on Zen. Whatever the newspapers have told you about Osho is worth disregarding when you come to read any of his books, which bristle with insight and wisdom.

Psychology/Parapsychology

Projections of the Consciousness, by Waldo Vieira. International Institute of Projectiology, 1995, 240 pp., no price given, p/b. A diary of out-of-body experiences from 1979 by a medical doctor who now teaches projectiology full time. Contains some pertinent observations on the experiences which make interesting reading for anyone pursuing this field.

Inner Eye, Listening Ear, by Paul Beard. Pilgrim Books, 1992, 142 pp., £10.95 h/b. ISBN 0-946259-41-0. A sensitive and level-headed study of mediumship which complements the author's earlier books on aspects of survival of consciousness and is based on decades of careful study and reflection.

Trauma & Transformation, by Richard Tedeschi and Lawrence Calhoun. Sage

Publications, 1995, 163 pp, £14.95 p/b, ISBN 0-8039-5257-0. Draws on philosophy, religion and psychology in analysing the process by which survivors of trauma experience spiritual growth.

Out of the Blue: Depression and Human Nature, by David B. Cohen. Norton & Co., Inc. 1994, 368 pp, \$13.95 p/b, ISBN 0-393-31299-2. An extensive and well-informed study of all forms of depression and its effects. Comes down on the nature side of the debate and therefore questions the suitability of psychotherapy in some cases and the causal relationship between mental illness and social conditions.

Living with Grief and Mourning, by James Moorey. Manchester University Press 1995, 168 pp, £8.99 p/b, ISBN 0-7190-3945-2. A theoretical and practical outline on how to cope with loss.

And Now, and Here: On Death, Dying and Past Lives, by Osho. C. W. Daniel & Co. 1995, 201 pp, £7.95 p/b, ISBN 0-85207-286-4. Discourses in answer to questions about death bringing up a variety of fears and beliefs, all of which Osho argues can be transcended in meditation.

Acquainted with the Night, by Allegra Taylor. C. W. Daniel & Co. 1995 (1989), 191 pp, £7.95 p/b, ISBN 0-85207-285-6. A moving personal account of the author's evolving understanding of death during a year training in hospice work.

A Dignified Dying, by Hans Küng and Walter Jens. SCM Press 1995, 132 pp, £9.95 p/b, ISBN 0-334-02609-1. A book arising out of a series of rigorous and wide-ranging discussions about voluntary euthanasia held at the University of Tübingen between the theologian Hans Küng and the literary critic Walter Jens, with comments from a doctor and lawyer.

Before and After, Natural Death Centre. The Natural Death Centre 1995, 79 pp, £5.95 p/b, ISBN 0 9523280 11. New ideas for improving the quality of dying and for inexpensive, green, family-organised funerals.

Forbidden Drugs, by Philip Robson. Oxford University Press 1994, 245 pp, £9.99 p/b, ISBN 0-19-262429-6. An informative exploration into the reasons people use drugs, the nature and effects of individual drugs, along with a critical assessment of current government policies.

The Link: The Extraordinary Gifts of a Teenage Psychic, by Matthew Manning. Colin Smythe Ltd., reprinted 1995, 176 pp, £5.95 p/b, ISBN 0-86140-283-9.

No Faith Required, by Matthew Manning. Colin Smythe Ltd., 1995, 80 pp, £5.00 p/b, ISBN 82-90601-09-3.

The Strangers, by Matthew Manning. Colin Smythe Ltd., 1995 (1978), 175 pp, £5.95 p/b, ISBN 0-86140-387-8.

The first book is a reprint of Matthew Manning's 1973 book, the second of another earlier book on his poltergeist experiences and remarkable psychic research of the life and times of a previous occupant of the house; the third is a concise introduction to his experiences of and approach to healing.

The Secret Power of Dreams, by David Fontana. Element 1995 (1990), 154 pp, £6.99 p/b, ISBN 1-85230-697-1. Considers all aspects of dreams and their interpretation including ESP in dreams and lucid dreaming.

Ecology/Economics

Life on a Modern Planet: A manifesto for progress, by Richard D. North. Manchester UP, 1995, 326 pp., £25, h/b, £10.99 p/b. ISBN 0-7190-4566-5. Widely reviewed in the national press, this book challenges the assumptions and analyses of eco-doomsters. It argues that the species and the planet have rather good prospects, and that our wellbeing depends on technical sophistication rather than Ludditism. Controversial but well-researched, it acts as a corrective to the more excessive Green claims, but should itself be taken with a pinch of salt.

The End of the Future, by Jean Gimpel. Adamantine, 1995, 125 pp, £14.95 p/b. (h/b @ £32.50). ISBN 0-7499-0118-9. Argues more or less from a diametrically opposite view to North that technical progress has slowed, that many predictions of the 60s have not come about, and that history moves in cycles, which will involve the decline of our own like all its predecessors. Pessimistic only in the short term, though, Gimpel asserts that 'the future is China'.

Visions for the 21st Century, edited by Sheila Moorcroft. Adamantine, 1992, 178 pp., no price given, p/b. ISBN 0-7499-0053-0. A stimulating collection of twenty-one invited essays on the

future by authors such as Vaclav Havel, Robert Muller, James Robertson and Francis Kinsman.

Globalisation and Interdependence in the International Political Economy, by R.J. Barry Jones. Pinter, 1995, 249 pp., £13.99 p/b. ISBN 1-85567-310-X. A thorough analytical and realist treatment of these important concepts showing the complexity of our current situation and the ways in which regionalising and nationalist tendencies cut across internationalising trends.

Preparing for the Future, edited by David Hicks. Adamantine, 1994, 132 pp., no price given, p/b. ISBN 0-7449-0108-1. Subtitled 'Notes and Queries for Concerned Educators', this book of essays outlines visions of the future with discussion topics and a chapter on exemplar activities to stimulate thinking among pupils about the context of their own futures.

The Foresight Principle, by Richard A. Slaughter. Adamantine, 1995, 232 pp., £14.95, p/b. ISBN 0-7449-0102-2.

Translated into evolutionary terms, the foresight principle is pre-adaptation and, at a higher level, wisdom in helping shape our future. This book is unusual in its breadth and depth of coverage. It does not simply consider socio-political and economic trends, but also analyses the underlying patterns within the present and emerging world-views. It also contains a forty page annotated bibliography, elements of which will be familiar to many readers.

Vitality and Renewal, by Colin Hutchinson. Adamantine, 1995, 320 pp., £20 p/b. (h/b @ £40). ISBN 0-7449-0111-1.

This is essentially a briefing book for managers who are trying to make sense of the current world situation and understand how their companies can formulate an appropriate strategic response and manage constructive organisational change. Aided by charts and diagrams, it provides an exceptionally clear set of guidelines and points for consideration which will be useful to anyone assessing opportunities for the future.

A Passion for Plants, by Clive Langmead. Lion Publishing 1995, 201 pp, £16.99 h/b ISBN 9-780745-929620, p/b £12.99. A vivid account of the life of Sir Ghillean Prance, which traces his path from adventures in the Amazonian rainforest to his appointment as Director of Kew Gardens.

The Soul of Politics, by Jim Wallis. Orbis Books 1994, 275 pp, \$19.95 h/b, ISBN 1-56584-204-9. Advocates a prophetic spirituality and social change through reclaiming the moral values of personal responsibility, social compassion and economic justice. Shows examples of 'signs of transformation' occurring in many community based projects which can bring hope and vision for the future.

Environmental Psychology, by Mirilia Bonnes and Gianfranco Secchiaroli. Sage Publications 1995, 230 pp, £12.95 p/b, ISBN 0-8039-7906-1. A scholarly psycho-social introduction to the field which explores its roots and directions of current research but makes no contact with radical thinkers such as Roszak and Skolimowski.

What Future for Future Generations?, edited by Emmanuel Agius and Salvino Busuttil. Foundation for International Studies 1994, 323 pp, no price given p/b, ISBN 99909-952-3-0. The outcome of a UNESCO conference initiative which explores interdisciplinary insights into 'intergenerational solidarity'. Brings the ecological time dimension to the fore.

Planetary Overload, by A. J. McMichael. Cambridge University Press 1993, 352 pp, £7.95 p/b, ISBN 0-521-55871-9.

The paperback version of a book reviewed in Network No.53, p.63.

The Natural Hedgehog, by Lenni Sykes with Jane Durrant. Gaia Books Limited 1995, 107 pp, £8.99 h/b, ISBN 1-85675-042-6. A surprising and fascinating illustrated book which tells you everything you need to know about hedgehogs, including how to treat them with complementary medicine!

The Natural Garden Book, by Peter Harper. Gaia Books Limited 1994, 287 pp, £14.99 p/b, ISBN 1-85675-056-6. Subtitled *Gardening in Harmony with Nature*, this encyclopedic and beautifully produced book puts your garden in the context of Gaia, showing the many ways in which you can achieve a partnership with nature.

The New Economics Foundation runs a direct book series featuring many of the books reviewed in this section. Details from NEF at 1st Floor, Vine Court, 112-116 Whitechapel Rd, London E1 1JE. Tel: 0171-377-5696.

General

The Western Canon, by Harold Bloom. MacMillan, 1995, 578 pp., £10 p/b. ISBN 0-333-63952-9. A vigorous book arguing for the Western canon against what the author calls the School of Resentment (zealous multiculturalists etc). Concentrates on twenty-six writers with Shakespeare as the central focus. Brilliant and erudite, it will delight those with a passion for the Western literary tradition.

Phrases & Sayings, by Nigel Rees. Bloomsbury 1995, 530 pp, £20 h/b, ISBN 0-7475-2168-9. A treasury of over 3,000 origins not just of contemporary phrases and sayings but also clichés, headlines, advertising slogans and catchphrases from every conceivable source.

Earth to Spirit: In Search of Natural Architecture, by David Pearson. Gaia Books, 1994, 159 pp., £11.99 p/b. ISBN 1-85675-046-9. A cross cultural journey in search of ecologically sound materials, health conscious design and realisation of the deeply spiritual significance of buildings. Stimulating and exquisitely illustrated.

Aroma: The Cultural History of Smell, by Constance Classen, David Howes and Anthony Synnott. Routledge, 1994, 248 pp., £12.99 p/b. ISBN 0-415-11473-X. A fascinating scholarly history of the 'smellscapes' of different cultures and epochs, showing how odours even inform the power relations between the sexes, classes and ethnic groups.

Abduction, by John E. Mack. Simon & Schuster 1994, 432 pp, £5.99 p/b, ISBN 0-671-85194-2. What makes this book unusual is that the author is professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Needless to say, this book investigating more than eighty cases of alien abductions has not gone down very well with his colleagues, especially as it concludes that the accounts are real experiences.

Re-Inventing Society, edited by Nicholas Albery & Matthew Mezey. The Institute for Social Inventions 1994, 280 pp, £14.85 p/b, ISBN 0 948826 34 7.

Best Ideas, edited by Nicholas Albery, Matthew Mezey, Mary McHugh & Marie Papworth. The Institute for Social Inventions 1995, 288 pp, £14.85 p/b, ISBN 0-948826-37-1. The latest batch of original ideas and award-winning schemes from the Institute of Social Inventions.

From Beginning to End: The Rituals of Our Lives, by Robert Fulghum. Villard Books 1995, 273 pp, £20.00 h/b, ISBN 0-679-41961-6. Widens the scope of ritual to show how many of the patterns in everyday life as well as transformations we all pass through. Engagingly written, it recounts many of the author's own encounters with endings and beginnings.

Nostradamus, by John Hogue. Element Books 1994, 256 pp, £9.99 p/b, ISBN 1-85230-683-1.

Millennium Prophecies, by A. T. Mann. Element 1995 (1992), 143 pp, £4.99 p/b, ISBN 1-85230-685-8

The Mayan Prophecies, by Adrian Gilbert and Maurice Cotterell. Element Books 1995, 332 pp, £16.99 h/b, ISBN 1-85230-692-0.

Three books about prophecies. Interpretation of Nostradamus is itself an exercise in prophecy at the best of time. This edition is attractively produced but it is an exaggeration to subtitle it 'The New Revelations'. Mann's book is a comparative

survey of predictions for the year 2000. The third book claims to decode the Mayan prophecies which forecast the end of the present world in 2012; it controversially correlates the rise and fall civilisations with sun spot cycles.

Time will Tell, by Averil Earnshaw. A & K Enterprises 1995, 145 pp, no price given p/b, ISBN 0 646 17612 9. An intriguing book on 'family time', which relates apparent parallel life patterns across the generations; it contains some uncanny material on health problems and examples from prominent historical figures.