

Science/Philosophy of Science

Evolutionary Origins of Morality: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives

by Leonard D Katz

Imprint Academic 2000, 352 pp., £14.95, p/b.

Another state of the art volume from Imprint. Here there are four principal papers with responses from critics and a final rejoinder from the author(s). It is a format that allows the reader maximum leverage on the critical issues raised. The four themes are Primate Evolutionary Continuities vs. Human Uniqueness, Origins of Unique Aspects of Human Morality, the Evolution and Psychology of Unselfish Behaviour, and the Putative Evolution of Fairness. Will be of special interest to moral philosophers.

Lingua ex Machina

by William H Calvin & Derek Bickerton

The MIT Press 2000, 298 pp., £16.95, h/b.

Subtitled 'Reconciling Darwin and Chomsky with the Human Brain', this is rather a technical collaborative work. It begins from the observation that Chomsky's universal grammar implies a huge and unlikely evolutionary step. The authors are concerned to offer plausible ways of getting from ape behaviours to syntax as an emergent property, sketching a scheme that is compatible with slow language improvement. One of their moves, however, (corticocortical coherence) does imply a threshold. Chapters are written or rather initiated by one of the others, but always contain a stimulating exchange of ideas. Although aimed at the general reader, this work is really more suitable for those with a specialist interest in the origin of language.

Why Elephants Have Big Ears

by Chris Lavers

Victor Gollancz 2000, 238 pp., £18.99, h/b.

Subtitled 'Nature's Engines and the Order of Life', this is a readable introduction to the evolution of life forms dealing with such themes as the nature of birds and the evolution of warm-bloodedness. The author's great love for and wonder at the natural world comes through strongly and the reader feels fully involved in his discussions.

A History of Molecular Biology

by Michel Morange

Harvard University Press 2000, 336 pp., £12.50, p/b.

One cannot do better than quote Steven Rose from the dust jacket: 'Well researched and clearly written. Morange is critical of the triumphalist and reductionist claims of molecular biology and ends the book by reflecting on its place in the life sciences. Altogether, for a sophisticated, theoretical and technical account of the strengths and weaknesses of the claims and history of molecular biology, Morange's book will take some beating'.

Sociobiology - The New Synthesis

by Edward O Wilson

Harvard University Press 2000, 697 pp., £18.50, p/b.

A 25th anniversary edition of this controversial but seminal work. In his new introduction, the author places his work within the context of his more recent book 'Consilience', reviewed in these pages last year. Many readers will find his thesis uncongenial, but it deserves serious attention.

Medicine/Health

***Home Remedies* by Dr Otto Wolff**

Floris Books 1998, 125 pp., £5.99, p/b.

Subtitled 'Herbal and Homeopathic Treatments for Use at Home', this book written by a doctor interested in Anthroposophical Medicine provides simple practical advice on using natural methods to resolve rather than suppress symptoms of illness. Also contains useful suggestions for a medicine

Knocking at the Gate of Life

by Edward C. Chang

Gill & Macmillan 2000, 255 pp., p/b.

This is rather remarkable in being the official exercise manual of the Republic of China, compiled and tested by Chinese doctors and based mainly on Tai Chi and Chi Kung. The book gives a general background to Chinese self-healing exercises, followed by more detail on Tai Chi and Chi Kung. It then looks at specific conditions such as circulatory disease, lung problems and digestion as well as making suggestions for healing the nervous system and toning the muscles. Well illustrated and laid out.

The Healing Energies of Trees

by Patrice Bouchardon

Gaia Books Ltd 1998, 159 pp., £12.99, p/b.

An unusual and beautiful book that combines an analysis of our attitude to nature and compares them with our attitude to illness and the healing process. It then moves on to some exercises to expand our perception of trees before looking at the author's intuitive experience of the healing power of trees. A good read for tree lovers and ecological healers.

Thoughts that Harm, Thoughts that Heal

by Keith Mason (SMN)

Judy Piatkus (Publishers) Ltd 2000, 216 pp., £10.99, p/b.

Here is the distillation of thirty years practice of complementary medicine which starts with the diagnosis of his wife (now in robust health) with cancer 20 years ago. One of the most striking sentences in the book was said to the author by an early member of the Network, Dr. Aubrey Westlake: 'All illness is curable, but not all patients'. What an acute observation! One which Keith has found borne out in his years of practice and which immediately takes one to the heart of the book - the creative and destructive power of thought on our health. The most destructive force seems to be fear, but the author goes into considerable detail when he analyses the different attitudes that tend, in his experience, to be associated with particular common ailments and more serious conditions. This will interest patient and practitioner alike, and it will be interesting to learn if Keith's observations are reflected in the experience of others. A very helpful book in any event.

How Meditation Heals

by Eric Harrison

Piatkus Books 2000, 250 pp., £9.99, p/b.

A follow-up to the author's earlier book on meditation. Unusual in concentrating on the health benefits of meditation practice, for instance in connection with hypertension, insomnia and enhancement of the immune and circulatory systems. His background is in Buddhist practice, but he has 30 years of experience in the field - a helpful guide.

Natural Healing

by Chrissie Wildwood

Judy Piatkus (Publishers) Ltd 1997, 186 pp., £10.99, p/b.

A very practical and helpful guide by an experienced writer and therapist. She advocates a balanced approach, without becoming obsessed with any particular method. A good book to recommend to beginners as it is so comprehensive.

Step-by-Step Head Massage

by Eilean Bentley

Gaia Books Ltd 2000, 143 pp., £10.99, p/b.

A clear practical guide for both self-help and massage therapists that incorporates basic techniques, a self-care routine, sequences for different parts of the body and an extensive section on treating common ailments.

Lazy Person's Guide to Emotional Healing

by Andrew Tresidder (SMN)

Newleaf 2000, 146 pp., £8.99, p/b.

A book about the use of flower essences for emotional healing that draws on the author's considerable experience as a rural GP. He also describes a powerful kinesiology technique for the release of emotional trauma. He recommends the use of various appropriate combinations of flower essences for different conditions or purposes such as bereavement, worry, addiction, exhaustion, addictions and even 'assertiveness in leadership'. The book provides an excellent introduction to the philosophy and practice of Dr. Edward Bach and his flower essences, and is illustrated with many pertinent case histories. The book can be recommended to practitioner and lay person alike.

Detox Plan: Clearing your body, mind and emotions

by Jane Alexander

Gaia Books Ltd 1998, 127 pp., £10.99, p/b.

If you are on the lookout for a reliable guide to getting in shape, this is it. Illustrated, practical and reliable, Jane Alexander provides all you need, so once you have bought and read the book there is no further excuse for procrastination! Questionnaires help you identify special areas of concern, while the one month programme contains all the necessary ingredients while covering all levels. Highly recommended.

Autism: A Holistic Approach

by Bob Woodward & Dr Marga Hogenboom

Floris Books 2000, 270 pp., £20.00, p/b.

This book presents a novel perspective on autism by placing it within the context of an anthroposophical framework. It gives a basic background of the condition and describes effective curative interventions with detailed case studies. It will be an eye opening book for clinicians unaware of the value of an anthroposophical approach.

Dolphin Healing

by Horace Dobbs

Judy Piatkus (Publishers) Ltd 2000, 198 pp., £10.99.

Horace Dobbs is well known for his work on dolphins and is the author of a dozen previous books. Trained as a chemist and with a PhD in applications of radioactive isotopes, he became the author of a classic work on underwater photography before becoming involved

with dolphins. Here he concentrates on the apparent healing powers of dolphins, illustrated with a number of case histories. Engaging and vividly written.

Philosophy/Religion

Talks with Ramana Maharshi

by Matthew Greenblatt (SMN) Ed.

Inner Directions Foundation 2000, 506 pp., \$27, p/b.

In his introduction to the first Western edition of these talks by the Indian sage Ramana Maharshi, Ken Wilber remarks in his introduction that this is one of the three books that he would take to a desert island. One can understand why. It consists of talks and responses given to visitors in the years 1935-39. Many of the visitors are deeply versed in esoteric teachings and they include W.Y. Evans-Wentz, editor of *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*. Hence the quality of the questions is high and the responses measure up. An inspirational volume that should be read regularly in small doses.

The Buddha Speaks

by Anne Bancroft (SMN)

Shambhala Publications Inc 2000, 133 pp., h/b.

A beautiful and inspiring collection of sayings by and anecdotes about the Buddha. The book is arranged in themes such as love, contemplation, sorrow, truth, life and death. An ideal book for contemplative reading.

Newman's Challenge

by Stanley L Jaki

William Eerdmans Publishing Co. 2000, 321 pp., £20.00, p/b.

A penetrating assessment of Newman by a leading theologian and former recipient of the Templeton Prize. The book begins with an overview of the challenges Newman set himself and then ranges over his main concerns. The chapters of most interest to Network readers will probably be those on miracles, science and evolution. Jaki shows his close acquaintance with primary sources here, and is especially good in his discussion of the central issues arising from the advent of Darwinism. He shows Newman to be impatient with scientific platforms used for the purpose of preaching a dogmatic secularism and fills in the background of other spokesmen in the debate, notably Peel and Lord Brougham. The most memorable sentence quoted from Newman in connection with Darwinian evolution is the contention, still relevant today, that 'chance is not a cause'.

The Armour of Light (Part I)

by Olive C B Pixley

Waveney Print 1957, 295 pp., £7.95, p/b.

This intriguing book was originally published in 1957 and has been re-issued in a new edition. It consists of a series of exercises and talks that describe a form of Christian initiation in a technique for healing oneself and others. The purpose of the techniques described is the reconstruction of the self and the physical body so as to become a channel for the transmission of new life. Christ is understood as the transformer of divine into human energies and powers. Breath is postulated as a carrier of sound and light forces, and the exercises as such consist of the visualisation of light. There is much wisdom and insight here but a true assessment could only be made by one who had followed through the whole series of exercises.

Olive Pixley's Spiritual Journey

by Olive Pixley

Waveney Print 1999, 167 pp., £6.95, p/b.

To be read in conjunction with 'The Armour of Light'. It is the story of the author's own fascinating journey, triggered by the death during the Great War of her brother Jack, with whom she subsequently communicated. One of Jack's nice phrases is: 'Everything that is inside in your world is outside here'. The subsequent lectures show a deep level of insight into spiritual realities and the crucial nature of light as a connection between the material and more subtle worlds, as in the following definition: 'Light is the substance of our spirit as flesh is the substance of our bodies'. A book for contemplative reading. Available from Irena Dean, 11 Pathfields, Shere, Surrey GU5 9HP. Please add £1.50 per book for p & p (£2.50 overseas). Email: irena@armouroflight.fsnet.co.uk

Utopias, Dolphins and Computers: Problems of Philosophical Plumbing

by Mary Midgley (SMN)

Routledge 1996, 182 pp., £9.99.

Paperback version of Mary's book reviewed last August (p.57). The two themes that struck me most were her analysis of guiding visions and her discussion of the Enlightenment ideal of individualism. A characteristically well written and robust contribution.

The Human Person in Science and Theology

by Niels Henrik Gregersen, Willem B Drees and Ulf Görman (eds)

T & T Clark Ltd 2000, 218 pp., £14.95, p/b.

A highly informative series of essays on the nature of human personhood with essays by Members Mary Midgley and Fraser Watts and broadly coming from what is termed a bio-cultural perspective. Here there is a co-evolution of brain and culture. It is interesting to note that rationality rather than the capacity for feeling is traditionally regarded as a touchstone for personhood. Some of the contributors go beyond the human idea of personhood and discuss it as 'Imago Dei' and there are three interesting pieces on supervenience and culture.

The Responsible Self: An Essay in Christian Moral Philosophy

by H Richard Niebuhr

Westminster John Knox Press 1963, 183 pp., p/b.

A reprint of this classic work representing the fullest statement of Niebuhr's ethical thinking, with a comprehensive introduction situating his thought. He argues that we are as much symbolic as rational animals and develops his concept of responsibility in terms of 'homo dialogicus', the self as responsive and responsible. This implies not only freedom and flexibility but also a guiding ideal of unlimited concern.

Traditional Celtic Stories

by Lindsay Clarke

Thorsons 1999, 200 pp., £6.99.

A vivid collection of Irish and Welsh myths, defined as 'world-endowed stories'. Lindsay Clarke points out that such stories, as long as they remain vital in the imagination of its hearers, will be experienced not merely as fictional but as the very fabric of life itself'. A profound observation that is borne out in the stories themselves.

The Five Lessons of Life

by Bill Adams

Random House Publishing Group Ltd 12000, 174 pp., £8.99, p/b.

A spiritual odyssey from India in which the author describes his remarkable encounter with Sangratan the Amchi, a holy man and healer. The book is well written and evokes the atmosphere of the Himalayas and its people. The lessons concern assessing what you value, working out how to pursue it, living in harmony with others, overcoming obstacles, and the development of five qualities that refine your behaviour: self-knowledge, understanding your value as a sentient creature, respect for others, conscious giving and openness. In an era when such simple wisdom is often forgotten or neglected, this book provides a timely reminder of perennial truths - the qualities strongly resemble the Network guidelines!

The Later Heidegger

by George Pattison

Routledge 2000, 230 pp., £8.99, p/b.

A specialist guide to Heidegger's post 1933 thought with individual chapters on Nietzsche and Holderlin.

The Abolition of Man

by C S Lewis

Harper Collins Publishers Ltd 1943, 69 pp., £4.99.

I include this classic here as I was prompted to read it following my review of Aeschliman's book 'The Restitution of Man' in the last issue. It is a powerful vindication of the notion of objective value rooted in what Lewis calls the Tao, representing the natural order of the universe. Within this context he argues against the notion that feelings and values are merely subjective, commenting that the Tao is to action what axioms are to theory: it is a premise rather than a conclusion. He also knowingly observes that 'to the wise men of old the cardinal problem had been how to conform the soul to reality, and the solution had been knowledge, self-discipline and virtue. For magic and applied science the problem is how to subdue reality to the wishes of men: the solution is a technique'. Need one add anything? A classic well worth the read.

Hatha-Yoga: Its Context, Theory and Practice

by Mikel Burley (SMN)

Motilal Banarsidass 2000, 321 pp., p/b.

A fine book with both a scholarly and an experiential understanding of the subject. It looks at contextual, theoretical and practical aspects and a special feature is the author's consideration of what he calls the 'subtle body matrix' (nadis, chakras and prana) which he argues constitutes a bridge between the gross physical and mental realms. Highly recommended as a comprehensive and reliable overview.

God's Laughter: Giving Birth to Joy

by Marianne Dubois

Hazelwood Press 2000, 149 pp., £9.95, p/b.

A follow-up to 'Solar Encounters' reviewed in an earlier issue. The book describes a series of questions and answers between the author and 'Jesus'. The questions are those of everyman/woman on the path and the answers are instructive and inspiring. They cover a variety of topics such as art, sexuality, spirituality, suffering and death. There is great compassion and wisdom in the answers, while the tone is intimate rather than patronising. Perhaps the most important sentence in the book is this: 'The only meaning of this message is to enable every person to orient their thinking towards a future full of light, because by doing the opposite we will bring about the very disasters we fear'.

The Rhythm of the Christian Year

by Emil Bock

Floris Books 1992, 222 pp., £14.99, h/b.

Emil Bock was one of the priest founders of the Steiner based Christian Community and this is his book about the renewal of the religious cycle of festivals. These meditations deepen the reader's appreciation of the Christian festivals of Christmas, Easter, Whitsun, Epiphany and the periods in between. They are informed by Steiner's understanding of Christ, Michael, St. John the Baptist and other major figures. An inspiring read.

Crystals Crosses and Chakras: A Woman's Mystical Emergence

by Wilma Wake

Chrysalis Books 2000, 180 pp., \$13.95, p/b.

Subtitled 'a woman's mystical emergence', this book is a well written chronicle of Wilma Wake's spiritual journey up to and past her current post as a Swedenborgian minister. She covers her New Age phase, the parallels between her experiences and those of classic Christian mystics, and her more recent Kundalini type experiences. Her experience of Divine love reconciles here intellectual questionings about the nature of evil. She commends the openness of the New Age movement but comments that it is not itself a spiritual tradition. Her guidelines for healthy mysticism, urging seekers to concentrate on regeneration and deepening their love of God. She also observes that mysticism is active process of 'seeking God in the heart and in connection with others', and that it is a spiral journey rather than an experience.

The Mystery of Love

by Cardinal Basil Hume

Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd. 1976, 94 pp., £9.95, h/b.

Some touching last reflections from Basil Hume, a collection of what he called 'starting points for prayer and meditation'. The writing is simple and direct, drawing inspiration from the Catholic tradition while always considering it within the human condition. A good bedside book.

The Battle for God: Fundamentalism in Judaism, Christianity and Islam

by Karen Armstrong

Harper Collins Publishers Ltd 2000, 442 pp., £19.99, h/b.

A brilliant and perceptive survey of the emergence of fundamentalism in the 10th century. She sees a family resemblance between various types of fundamentalism as embattled forms of spirituality that have emerged as a response to a perceived crisis and are based on the idea of a cosmic war between good and evil. She analyses the roles of meaning-conferring 'mythos' and the more functional 'logos', commenting that movements inspired by the Enlightenment concentrated on logos at the expense of mythos, which they regarded as false and superstitious. The result is the modern vacuum of meaning and reactions to it. The analysis is immensely detailed, covering the background of Jewish, Muslim and Christian fundamentalisms, and the history of the various movements from 1870 onwards. Armstrong argues that fundamentalists make the mistake of conflating the mythos with the logos, 'either by insisting that their dogmas are scientifically true, or by transforming their complex mythology into a streamlined ideology'. (p. 366) The embattled nature of modern fundamentalisms has meant that they have lacked compassion and humility. No one seeking to understand these complex and significant modern currents can afford to miss this book.

Gurdjieff: A Biography

by James Moore (SMN)

Element Books 1991, 415 pp., £14.99, p/b.

A perceptive and brilliantly written major biography of Gurdjieff, first published nearly ten years ago. It must be the definitive work on the subject, meticulously researched and with extensive notes and chronology. James Moore is right in arguing that his work is as relevant today as it was 50 years ago.

Empowering Your Soul Through Meditation

by Rajinder Singh

Element Books 1999, 180 pp., £8.99, p/b.

A three part guide by an acclaimed spiritual teacher. Part 1 describes the qualities of the empowered soul: wisdom, immortality, unconditional love, fearlessness, connectedness and bliss. Part 2 looks at the obstacles to soul self-knowledge, while Part 3 describes a practical meditative path. The book is marked out by the insight and simplicity of the author and his helpful practical guidance in committing regular time for meditation practice.

The Fifth Dimension

by Vera Stanley Alder

Samuel Weiser, Inc. 1970, 220 pp., £11.99, p/b.

A reprint of a significant book published 30 years ago. The first two parts deal in details with the nature of meditation and analyse the stages of a special practice. Then the last two parts range much more widely by looking prophetically into a more enlightened future and considering such issues as faith, science, health, education and the state of the human mind in 2070. An inspiring and visionary book.

Psychology/Parapsychology

The Inner Journey: Lectures and Essays on Jungian Psychology

by Barbara Hannah

Inner City Books 2000, 155 pp., \$16, p/b.

A stimulating series of essays by one of Jung's early collaborators which covers various aspects of his work such as active imagination, individuation, ego and shadow, and the role of the animus. The exposition is clear and will interest people at all levels of expertise.

The Hero's Journey: Joseph Campbell on His Life and Work

Phil Cousineau (ed)

Element Books 1999, 258 pp., £18.99, h/b.

I reviewed an earlier version of this book a few years back, but this new edition is well worth acquiring. Many readers will know that Joseph Campbell was one of the foremost 20th century writers on myth. This book not only serves as a wonderful introduction to his work, but brings him alive to those who already know it. It takes the form of a series of a number of engaging and illuminating conversations, with photos of works of art and of Campbell himself. In speaking of his own story he relates to the human experience in general and encourages readers to deepen their own.

The Psyche in Antiquity - Gnosticism and Early Christianity

by Edward F. Edinger

Inner City Books 1999, 159 pp., p/b.

A volume building on Jung's book, 'Aion', which the author calls the beginning of archetypal

psychohistory. The upheaval of 2,000 years ago represents the death and rebirth of the functioning God-image, a situation paralleled in our own time. Jesus brought a new archetype of the Son of Man, corresponding in contemporary thought to the idea of the deep self (as opposed to the ego). The response to this archetype took the two forms of orthodox Catholicism and the more fragmented Gnosticism, a movement eventually annihilated by the Church. However, the timely rediscovery of many original manuscripts in the last century corresponded with a revival of emphasis on individual spiritual experience. The book is a vivid introduction to the main Gnostic thinkers and their orthodox opponents and can be highly recommended as such, quite apart from the acute psychological insights emerging from the author.

The Transformative Power of Crisis

by Robert M Alter & Jane Alter

Thorsons 2000, 268 pp., £9.99, p/b.

Subtitled 'Our Journey to Psychological Healing and Spiritual Awakening', this is the collaborative work of a husband and wife psychotherapy team. It is the fruit of much life experience, some 40,000 hours of professional therapy and a wide range of reading. The result is rather remarkable and highly readable. There are eight chapters, beginning with a visit to the past, passing through the mind, meditation and feelings and ending up with the Journey. The sections within chapters are short, consisting of header quotations, observations and touching illustrative stories. It bridges psychology and spirituality in a practical and stimulating way which reflects back on the reader's experience. A book to savour and read in small doses.

ReCreating Your Self

by Neale Donald Walsch (SMN)

Hampton Roads Publishing Company Inc 2000, 84 pp., £10, p/b.

A practical spin-off from the Conversations with God material with a specific programme based on principles and practical exercises. One of the central practices is to distinguish in retrospect reactions to events from what actually happened. The essence is conscious creation of a new future through a new orientation of consciousness.

How to Solve the Mind-Body Problem

by Nicholas Humphrey

Imprint Academic 2000, 112 pp., £6.96, p/b.

State of the art theorising in response to an essay by Nicholas Humphrey in which he modestly claims to have solved this problem. Most of the reviewers don't agree with his claim. I found the discussion by Christian de Quincey especially illuminating as he sets out very clearly the implications of Humphrey's thesis, giving him credit for his work but, in my view, showing why he has failed - though, as one might expect, Humphrey regards Christian's views as misconceived.

Reclaiming Cognition

by Rafael Nunez & Walter J Freeman

Imprint Academic 2000, 2284 pp., £14.95, p/b.

Subtitled 'The Primacy of Action, Intention and Emotion', this collection of essays are based on a diagnosis that the cognitive sciences have been frozen into one narrow form by the machine metaphor. The authors call for a move away from this form towards richer understandings that include the primacy of 'action, intention, emotion, culture, real-time constraints, real-world opportunities, and the peculiarities of living bodies'. Sections include

one based on the subtitle, plus 'Mathematics and Neurobiology' and 'Embodied,, Evolving and Ecological Minds'. Although technical in parts, the volume is accessible to the general reader.

Future Studies/Economics/Ecology

The Organic Directory

by Compiled by Clive Litchfield

Green Books Ltd 2000, 192 pp., £7.95, p/b.

Indispensable guide for anyone in the UK wanting to know about their local organic suppliers. Contains a useful introduction plus full regional listings. The book is spiced with quotations from leading ecological writers.

The Fourth Way

by Donald Wilhelm

Shepherd-Walwyn (Publishers) Ltd 1999, 142 pp., £11.95.

This is rather a hybrid but nevertheless original book contending that the so-called Third Way is a retreat of the late 1960s end of ideology syndrome. The author draws on his considerable practical and theoretical knowledge to outline some giants of science, the development of communications technology, and the strengths and weaknesses of Marxism. He claims that great artists, scientists and writers are driven by sublimated masochism and that 20th century science demolished the theoretical basis of 19th century materialism. The Big Ideas of the Fourth Way are the social application of science (no mention of pitfalls here), human rights, the role of English, the Keynesian legacy, the international mixed economy and the cultural revolt. Interesting as far as it goes but the author's analysis is incomplete in being short on psychology. The 'Fifth Way' will surely come next.

Honorable Work

by Tim Anstett

Floris Books 1999, 1191 pp., £11.99, p/b.

A stimulating book that raises some fundamental questions about the nature and significance of work. The author has been working at a top corporate level with his company STRIVE (Success Training in Vocal Expression), the premise of which is that we receive honour for what we do when we first give honour to it. The four steps are the commitment to give honour, the attitude of ownership for what we do, skill of communication that allows us to embody this, and finally the communal skill of integration that allows us to pass honour on to others. The book then works through these four steps in a participatory way - I found the section on communication especially interesting with its analysis of language and voice. A must read for consultants and others directly involved in business.

Heaven in a Wild Flower

by Vera Glenn

Swedenborg Foundation 2000, 187 pp., \$14.95, p/b.

A charming work of spiritual reflections arising from the author's own garden in all the seasons. It contains evocative seasonal entries from different years and is underpinned by Swedenborgian philosophy. Gardeners will enjoy the resonances of the book.

Education

The Making of Them

by Nick Duffell

Lone Arrow Press 2000, 318 pp., £20.00.

Subtitled 'The British Attitude to Children and the Boarding School System', this is a book that will have many resonances for those readers who, like myself, did not pass through the system entirely unscathed and might arguably join the ranks of 'boarding school survivors'. Indeed it is part of the argument of this powerful book that no one comes out unaffected, although physical conditions are an order of magnitude less barbaric than in the 60s. The book derives not only from the author's own experience but from that of countless others who have attended his workshops or corresponded with him. So the picture is wide ranging and by and large fair. The most important questions raised and discussed relate to psychological and emotional issues, and apply especially to single sex boys boarding schools. The macho group dynamic militates against the more sensitive, and tremendous pressure is exerted on one to conform, if one does not want to be scapegoated (an almost inevitable process at that stage of immaturity). In any event, rough initiation processes are still alive in most schools. The school 'community' is no substitute for the family and this same pressure may easily stunt emotional growth, with painful long term consequences. The issues raised in this book need an airing - I hope that some of the more enlightened headmasters will read it reflectively.

Favourite Grimm's Tales

by Illustrated by Ansastasiya Archipova

Floris Books 1998, 198 pp., £12.99, h/b.

Review by Charlotte Lorimer (4) : A book with some of my favourite stories in it and some that Daddy read me for the first time. In the Cinderella story the ugly sisters end in a bad way and there is a lovely story about a hut in the forest. A beautifully produced book.

Love You Forever

by Robert Munsch

Firefly Books Ltd 1986, p/b.

Charlotte Lorimer writes: One of my favourite stories about parents and children who love each other for ever. It's very beautiful and touching.

All I See Is Part of Me

by Chara M Curtis

Illumination Arts Publishing Co Ltd 1898, h/b.

Charlotte Lorimer (4) writes: 'I am part of all I see and all I see is part of me'. A book about what I can see inside and outside me, showing me that I am the stars, the sun and even, in a way, my teddy bear!

The Valley of Mist

by Arcadio Lobato

Floris Books 1986, 24 pp., £8.99, h/b.

Charlotte Lorimer writes: the story of Stefan and his grandpa who question the tradition that there is no world beyond the valley. Stefan sets out on a great adventure and climbs right to the top of the mountain where he sees the sun rising. When he gets back, the elders won't believe him but he rushes up a tower with them chasing behind and they eventually see for themselves! Stefan and his grandpa were right after all! Silly elders!

General

The Rape of the Constitution

Ed by Keith Sutherland (SMN)

Imprint Academic 2000, 370 pp., £12.95, p/b.

A timely book discussing various constitutional issues from a variety of perspectives and with a foreword by Michael Beloff QC. Topics include The House of Lords, Devolution and Local Government, the European Union and Populism and the Media. Among the well known contributors are Lord Carrington, Earl Russell, Lord Jenkins and Lord Tebbit.

Ireland - A Sacred Journey

by Michael Dames

Element Books 2000, 256 pp., £25.00, h/b.

A stunningly beautiful guide to sacred Ireland, well researched and sensitively written. The book is so enticing that the reader will immediately hatch plans to visit these sights that are so evocatively described and illustrated.

The Books in My Life

by Colin Wilson

Hampton Roads Publishing Company Inc 1998, 311 pp., \$15.95, p/b.

A fascinating book for Colin Wilson readers as he takes us behind the scenes of his reading. How many books is too many? He asks. Well he should know - when I visited him more than fifteen years ago his then tally was over 25,000 and he offered a small reward for any suggestion of where another book case might be put up! What makes the book so interesting is that it effectively serves as an intellectual autobiography covering his major influences such as Shaw, Dostoevsky, Nietzsche, Joyce, William and Henry James, Eliot, Cassirer and many others.

Messiahs

by John Hogue

Element Books 1999, 255 pp., £20.00, h/b.

An exceptionally well informed illustrated guide to worldwide visions and prophecies of the second coming. It begins with a cornucopia of messiahs across the cultures, followed by sections examining more specific phenomena. The text is interspersed with apposite quotations and evocative illustrations. It is hard to imagine a more interesting treatment of this theme, although I did feel that Osho was over-represented in relation to his importance.

The Little Book of Complete Bollocks

by Alistair Beaton

Simon & Schuster UK Ltd 2000, 120 pp., £2.99.

An irreverent and at times hilarious look at the excesses and absurdities of New Age thinking. Under 'Allergies' comes: 'Don't condemn others for their actions unless you know the cause. That masked man waving a gun in the bank may just be having an allergic reaction to pollen'. And under 'First Date': 'Going on a first date? Give your immune system a boost by eating lots of raw garlic'.

The Encyclopedia of Mind, Body, Spirit, & Earth

by Joanna Crosse

Element Childrens' Books 1998, 160 pp., h/b.

A lavishly illustrated primer to a wide range of subjects connected with the main themes. Makes a good introduction and is suitable for secondary students exploring the field for the first time.

