

Science/Philosophy of Science

***The Very First Light* by John C Mather & John Boslough. Penguin Books 1996, 328 pp., £8.99, p/b.** This is the fascinating inside story of the Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) radiation satellite whose findings helped establish the big bang theory. Provides a survey of modern cosmology, details of the experimental work and the personalities involved as well as an account of the administrative, human and political hitches that hampered the project.

***In Search of the Big Bang* by John Gribbin. Penguin Books 1986, 375 pp., £8.99, p/b.** A new edition of this highly readable guide to theories about the beginning and end of the universe. Traces the formulations of Big Bang cosmology and surveys the technical developments leading to our current understanding. Gribbin is one of the most accessible writers in this field.

***Lakatos: An Introduction* by Brendan Larvor. Routledge 1998, 128 pp., £11.99, p/b.** A lucid introductory account of Lakatos' life and work in philosophy of science. The main interest of the book for Network readers lies in his contribution to the Kuhn-Popper debate and his methodology of scientific research programmes. This represents the main phases through which a leading idea passes. He recognised, against Popper an unfalsifiable hard core at the heart of every programme, which explains why scientists often adopt such a cavalier attitude towards anomalies on the grounds that their programme will eventually incorporate or explain them. Popper regarded such behaviour as tantamount to the issue of a promissory note, which may well be unjustified.

***The End of the World* by John Leslie. Routledge 1996, 310 pp., £9.99, p/b.** A tightly argued and well written book that assesses the risks and factors that may bring about the extinction of the human race at an early stage. Some risks are well recognised, others less so and still others are totally unpredictable or currently unknowable. It is this lack of determinism that tilts the balance in our favour. Ranges across science, philosophy, ecology and politics.

***Fermat's Last Theorem* by Simon Singh. Fourth Estate Limited 1997, 362 pp., £12.99, h/b.** Written by the director of the BBC documentary film, himself a Ph.D. physicist, this book tells the fascinating tale of a mathematical riddle that confounded the mathematical community for over 300 years. The reader romps through a history of mathematics and the characters who struggled with Fermat's legacy to reach the story of Andrew Wiles, the mathematician who finally cracked it. However, as the book recounts, his own quest had a number of false starts before arriving at a triumphant conclusion. Well written and highly informative without being overly technical.

***A Life in Science* by Stephen Hawking. Penguin Books 1992, 329 pp., £7.99, p/b.** A new edition of the highly acclaimed biography charting Hawking's personal and professional development. Fills in much of the background to his breakthroughs and presents a candid account of his difficulties as well as a wealth of amusing anecdotes.

***The Logos-Structure of the World* by Georg Kuhlewind. Lindisfarne Books 1986, 144 pp., p/b.** Takes language as an archetypal function of consciousness and examines the world as a text to be read, using the tools of epistemology, cognitive psychology and linguistics. Language is related to meaning and, in turn, to being as a cultivation of faculties or Goethean organs of perception is required for a full appreciation of reality. In our time we need to rediscover lost dimensions of words and the world that has been shrunk by a purely quantitative approach.

***The Fabric of Reality* by David Deutsch. Penguin Books 1997, 390 pp., £25, h/b.** Starting with a chapter on theories of everything, this book connects quantum computers, the nature of scientific and mathematical knowledge, the physics of time travel, the comprehensibility of nature and the physical limits of virtual reality.

***Breakthrough: The Origins of Mind, Space and Time!* by Cornelis Slenters (SMN). Yin Yang Books 1996, 188 pp., p/b.** This book is an accessible explanation of the author's theory of life and mind. He describes a number of principles such as the 'Great Scaling Pattern', interconnectedness and adaptive loops that underlie the phenomena of the physical and non-physical realms. He sees the unity underlying everything and argues that consciousness is primary. He also discusses the creative role of the subconscious and compares his insights with those of the Seth material. The book presents an integrated understanding and challenges the reader to tap the creative resources of the subconscious mind.

***Huxley* by Adrian Desmond. Penguin Books 1997, 630 pp., £10.99, p/b.** An impressive and highly acclaimed biography of Darwin's bulldog, unlikely to be surpassed in the near future. A definitive portrait of the man and his work.

Medicine/Health

***Modernity, Medicine and Health, Medical Sociology Towards 2000* by Edited by Graham Scambler and Paul Higgs. Routledge 1998, 241 pp., £14.99.** Essays examining the implications of current social change for our understanding of health. Topics covered include the future of medical sociology, the limitations of the post-modern perspective, the significance of class and gender. Contains an interesting discussion of the influence of post-modern thinking on the debate between biomedical and complementary medicine.

***Constructive Awareness* by Daniel McGowan. Larson Publications 1997, 111 pp., \$11.95, p/b.** An unusual book that looks at the author's own journey as a teacher of Alexander technique and student of Paul Brunton. Shows how we can use the body's own sense to enhance spiritual awareness.

***Healing with Nutritional Therapy* by Patricia Quinn. Gill & Macmillan 1998, 117 pp., £4.99, p/b.** A practical introductory self-help guide towards achieving and maintaining health through nutrition and nutritional therapy.

***The Healing Power of Mind* by Tulku Thondup. Penguin Books 1996, 207 pp., £10.99, p/b.** A mind at peace with itself protects the body's health. This sentence from the foreword by Daniel Goleman sums up the intent of this book. It comes from the heart of the Tibetan tradition. The first two parts analyse the healing path and give detailed exercises for the healing of emotions as well as techniques for everyday living as healing. The third part consists of Buddhist meditations that re-emphasise the importance of cultivating mindfulness in order to achieve a state of balance and harmony. A simple and inspiring book.

***Hypnosis in Europe* by Peter Hawkins and Michael Heap. Whurr Publishers Ltd 1998, 226 pp., £25.00, p/b.** A fascinating account of the status of hypnosis in various European countries, written by experts who consider historical and cultural influences, recent academic and clinical research, common areas of application, and likely future developments. A rich resource for psychologists and practitioners.

***Doctors and Diseases in the Roman Empire* by Ralph Jackson. British Museum Press 1998, 207 pp., p/b.** Drawing on both written and archaeological sources, this book paints a fascinating picture of medicine in the time of the Romans. The author covers food and hygiene, types of physicians, women's diseases, Gods and magic as well as the job of the surgeon in the army. Gives a keen insight into both similarities and differences between the classical and modern.

***Ancient Egyptian Medicine* by John F Nunn. British Museum Press 1996, 240 pp., £25.00, h/b.** A very remarkable book written by a doctor who is also an Egyptologist surely a unique combination! Will appeal to all interested in the history of medicine and Egyptian culture. The author sets the scene, explains the significance of the medical papyri, Egyptian concepts of anatomy, physiology and pathology, then the pattern of disease. His treatment of magic and religion is sympathetic, then he moves on to famous individual physicians and the use of surgery and drug therapy. Scholarly, well written and utterly absorbing.

***Health Psychology in Global Perspective* by Frances E. Aboud. Sage Publications Ltd. 1998, 326 pp., £17.99, p/b.** Examines the health issues facing developing countries and compares them with problems facing developed countries. Uses a psychosocial perspective and integrates literature from a variety of disciplines. Topics include AIDS, family planning, nutrition, health education and mental health. The volumes in this series present cultural elements that challenge ingrained Western ways of thinking.

***Health & Environmental Impact Assessment* by B.M.A. Earthscan Publications Ltd 1998, 211 pp., £14.95, p/b.** An authoritative policy report from the British Medical Association of the kind that could never have been issued twenty years ago. It fully recognises the linkages between health and environment, and calls for an integrated approach to health and environmental impact assessment of new development projects. Well illustrated with topical case studies and containing detailed policy recommendations.

***The Psychology of Health* by Marian Pitts and Keith Phillips. Routledge 1991, 410 pp., £16.99, p/b.** Second edition of this very well received textbook. It is exceptionally clearly presented with exercises, discussion points, key point summaries and further references. The introduction covers the scope of the topic, psychophysiology, stress and coping. The other parts treat patient behaviour, a wide range of health issues such as hypertension, CHD, nutrition and cancer, then a final part looks at the wider issues of child health and social circumstances.

***Conceptual Issues in Psychological Medicine* by Michael Shepherd. Routledge 1990, 250 pp., £17.99, p/b.** Second amended edition of this collection of papers by the late Professor of Epidemiological Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry. Aimed at professionals in the field.

***Soul Empowerment: a guidebook for healing yourself and others* by Michael Bradford and Rosalie Deer Heart. Findhorn Press 1997, 208 pp., £7.95, p/b.** Written wholeheartedly from an esoteric understanding of the nature of the soul and life, thus making a lot of unprovable assertions and assumptions. One can only measure the book against one's own insights. Nevertheless it is the fruit of much experience and healing. It introduces new concepts about the types of incarnations we undergo and seeks to identify the soul qualities necessary for each person to understand and progress. Gives guidance on soul healing and techniques for transcending the limitations of the personality in order to make direct contact with the soul.

***Food, Health and Identity* by Pat Caplan. Routledge 1997, 280 pp., £15.99, p/b.** A collection of essays exploring our changing eating habits in a social context. Begins with anthropological views, analyses changing food practices and the relationship between food and health in terms of risk and lifestyle. The essays are well contextualised and reflect a wide spectrum of backgrounds including Glaswegian Punjabi women, vegetarianism in South London as well as changing patterns in family meals, food on holiday and the palatability or otherwise of healthy eating advice.

***Health & Climate Change* by Pim Martens. Earthscan Publications Ltd 1998, 155 pp., £15.95, p/b.** A groundbreaking study proposing a new paradigm of integrated eco-epidemiological models to predict and analyse the potentially devastating health impacts of global atmospheric changes. Looks at climate change and vector-borne diseases, malaria as a complex adaptive system, thermal stress in cities and changes in skin cancer incidence due to thinning of the ozone layer.

***The Healing Stream* by George Hacker. Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd. 1998, 190 pp., £10.95, p/b.** A survey of the Church's healing ministry from the Anglo-Catholic wing by a retired bishop. He takes a broad look at the whole healing process with chapters on miracles, prayer for healing, the role of the sacraments, putative links between sickness and sin, the ministry of exorcism and the place of death. Of interest to those looking for a theological rather than scientific underpinning to the healing field.

Philosophy/Religion

***A Sourcebook for Earth's Community of Religions* by Joel Beversluis (ed). Co-Nexus Press 1995, 365 pp., p/b.** A remarkable book that sets out much of the agenda for ecumenical and cultural renewal for the next century. It begins with statements of the religious traditions about themselves, moves on to issues of global ethics and interfaith dialogue, including problems of intolerance. The third part examines the roots of the UN and work going on in relation to human rights, hunger, population, development, disarmament and peace. The fourth looks at how we are choosing our future, and the fifth details available resource guides. A rich and inspiring volume.

***Look for Yourself* by Douglas E Harding. Inner Directions Foundation 1998, 236 pp., \$16.95, p/b.** A new book of articles by the author of *On Having No Head*. Lucid and witty, this book will be a feast for those who like to read about self-knowledge, especially for the message between the lines. Engages with the current scientific dogma that consciousness is a by-product of matter, observing that this is one of the least challenged myths of our time.

***The Feeling Buddha* by David Brazier. Constable & Company Limited 1997, 207 pp., £16.95, h/b.** An accessible view of Buddhism subtitled *A Buddhist Psychology of Adversity, Passion and Character*. Argues that his middle path grew out of the challenges he faced. The author draws on his own personal and clinical experience as a psychotherapist as well as his long practical study of the Buddhist path.

***A Company of Angels* by David Lawson. Findhorn Press 1998, 161 pp., £6.95, p/b.** A practical guide for those who would like to acknowledge and make contact with the unseen world of angelic presences. The author does not foist his metaphysical views on the reader but is rather concerned to help us develop our inner sensitivity and potential.

***Mortals and others Volume II* by Bertrand Russell. Routledge 1998, 176 pp., £12.99, p/b.** Hugely entertaining short articles from the American press of the 1930s. I already read and enjoyed volume I years ago. Most pieces are less than two pages and cover a great variety of topics such as bores, conceit, emotions about spending money, orthodoxies, what to believe, on being important, protecting the ego. As one would expect, they are witty, erudite, well written and to the point.

***Providential Accidents* by Geza Vermes. SCM Press 1998, 258 pp., £19.95, h/b.** The autobiography of Professor Geza Vermes, famous for his studies of the Dead Sea Scrolls and of Jesus as a Jew. Gives a fascinating insider's account of the wrangling over the scrolls as well as details of his researches and life at Oxford over a thirty year period.

***Temple of the Cosmos* by Jeremy Naydler. Inner Traditions International 1996, 310 pp., £15.99, p/b.** This is an important book about the Ancient Egyptian experience of the sacred and the role of Egypt in the development of Western culture. The author encourages us to go back beyond the Greeks and Hebrews to the common source of some of their ideas. He argues that Egypt 'calls to us like a lost part of ourselves' as we strive to attain a new sensitivity towards spiritual powers and need to make contact with our foundations. There follows a highly readable account of Egyptian sacred culture, a knowledge of which may contribute to a new Renaissance as we return to the roots of our heritage.

***The Road to Daybreak* by Henri J M Nouwen. Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd. 1988, 228 pp., £9.95, p/b.** A part of the spiritual autobiography of this Dutch Catholic Priest who gave up his position at Harvard Divinity School to embrace a life among people with developmental disabilities. Takes the form of a diary reflecting on the spiritual insights gained in everyday life.

***Understanding Eastern Philosophy* by Ray Billington. Routledge 1997, 197 pp., £12.99, p/b.** A fresh approach to Eastern philosophies; the first part of the book is devoted to a lucid overview of the main tenets of Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism, along with their variants. Then the last third of the book provides a thematic comparative treatment of topics such as the ground of being, human nature and destiny, ethics, community, authority and faith, and the question of co-existence between religions. The final chapter draws together what the author considers to be the finest aspects of the various traditions and concludes that a basic need of the human race is 'tranquillity recollected in emotion' (paraphrasing Wordsworth). A very stimulating account.

***The Element Book of Mystical Verse* by Alan Jacobs. Element Books 1997, 532 pp., 24.99, h/b.** This is the first major chronological compilation of mystical verse since the 1917 Oxford Book, long since out of print. It is a book that every lover of mystical verse will want to have in their library. As the editor points out, one of the major developments since the early part of the century is the influence of Eastern traditions, which are well represented here. The range of authors is impressive, including not only the well loved names, but also many Eastern texts and obscure poets I had never heard of: there are many hidden jewels to be uncovered here.

***The Yogins of Laoakh* by John Crook (SMN) & James Low. Lavis marketing 1997, 420 pp., h/b.** Subtitled *A pilgrimage among the hermits of the Buddhist Himalayas*, this is a real piece of groundbreaking fieldwork by a team combining anthropological and linguistic expertise. It is revealing that John realised at an early stage that an interpretative and empathetic rather

than an objective approach was required. He also had to discard our cultural associations with terms such as mind and self. The characters and their teaching are vividly described as is the journey itself. A fascinating account of spiritual questing that will greatly enhance the reader's understanding of Buddhism.

***The Inner Voice of Love* by Henri J M Nouwen. Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd. 1997, 98 pp., £5.95, p/b.** Subtitled *A Journey from Anguish to Freedom*, this is a classic piece of spiritual writing about the human vulnerability of being what Pascal called a 'thinking reed'.

***Celtic Christianity* by Timothy Joyce. Orbis Books 1998, 180 pp., £9.99, p/b.** The author of this book is a Benedictine monk and abbot of Irish descent. He reintroduces the history and spirit of Celtic Christianity as a way of sustaining spiritual seekers and renewing the church. The book explains not only the historical background but also illustrates much of the architecture associated with the movement.

***Mysticism and Prophecy The Dominican Tradition* by Richard Woods. Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd. 1998, 168 pp., £8.95, p/b.** Part of a new series on traditions of Christian spirituality, this book recounts the history of the Dominican tradition with special emphasis on the three outstanding figures of Aquinas, Eckhart and Catherine of Siena

***The Wisdom of the Pagan Philosophers* by Timothy Freke and Peter Gandy. Journey Editions 1998, 60 pp., \$6.95, h/b.** For pagan here, read Greek. A treasure trove of profound sayings in a beautiful pocket edition.

***The Testing of Hearts: a Pilgrim's Journey* by Donald Nicholl. Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd. 1998, 270 pp., £8.95.** 'The centre of the universe is a loving heart, and we are responses to that loving heart' a reflection from the author's journals in the period leading up to his death. And again: 'What happens to me is not my business; it is God's. Mine is to respond to what happens with as much grace as I can muster'. Most of the book, however, documents the time he spent in the thick of the Arab-Israeli conflict as record of a church near Jerusalem. Well written and full of poignant reflections on the human condition.

***The Wisdom of the Christian Mystics* by Timothy Freke. Journey Editions 1998, 60 pp., h/b.** A series of inspiring quotations from Christian mystics covering God, communion, the mystic path and love. Pocket size for easy reference.

Seeds of Genius, The Early Writings by Alan Watts, edited by Mark Watts with John Snelling. Element Books 1997, 312 pp., £9.99, p/b. A stimulating collection of essays and reviews from 1934-56, which will interest any reader of Watts' other work. They cover the whole range of his concerns. I found some of the most intriguing from his collection on modern mystics, with pieces on Jung, Krishnamurti and Suzuki before they became so famous.

***The Wisdom of the Sufi Sages* by Timothy Freke. Journey Editions 1998, 60 pp., \$6.95, h/b.** Conveys the essential themes of Sufi mysticism in aesthetically appealing format.

***The Wisdom of the Hindu Gurus* by Timothy Freke. Journey Editions 1998, \$6.95, h/b.** Quotations from the three paths of Jnana, Bhakti and Karma yoga in this inspiring series.

***The Wisdom of the Zen Masters* by Timothy Freke. Journey Editions 1998, 60 pp., \$6.95, h/b.** If the illusion of separateness is an illness, the Zen cure is succinctly presented in this book, in so far as this can be hinted at in words.

***The Wisdom of the Tibetan Lamas* by Timothy Freke. Journey Editions 1998, 60 pp., \$6.95, h/b.** The clear light and compassion of Tibetan Buddhism shines through these pages and their illustrative art.

***Epistemology* by Robert Audi. Routledge 1998, 340 pp., £12.99, p/b.** A highly acclaimed and comprehensive introduction to epistemology as the theory of knowledge and justification. Explains the central concepts, theories and problems over the whole field. Includes perception, memory, consciousness, reason, testimony, inference, analysis of and types of knowledge, scepticism. Lucidly written for students and the interested general reader.

Psychology/Parapsychology

***Friends and Lovers* by Julian Sleight. Floris Books 1998, 191 pp., £6.99, p/b.** A reflective and sensitive book looking at issues surrounding friendship, intimacy and loyalty. The author is a priest and counsellor working in South Africa and brings a wise perspective to his themes. Full of constructive advice for the general reader.

***Brainchildren* by Daniel C Dennett. Penguin Books 1998, 418 pp., £12.50, p/b.** Leonardo would surely turn in his grave if he knew if he knew that Daniel Dennett had been called the 'Leonardo of the New Renaissance'. The Renaissance is predicated on an understanding of Platonic mystical philosophy, when Dennett denies even the reality of qualia, let alone other levels of being inaccessible to sensory perception. Having said all this, these essays on philosophy of mind, AI, ethology and animal psychology are certainly provocative and engaging.

***The Elements of Psychosynthesis* by Will Parfitt. Element Books 1990, 134 pp., £5.99, p/b.** An authoritative introduction to the school of psychosynthesis

***Journey Beyond* by Ivy Northage. Light Publishing 1997, 45 pp., £3.50, p/b.** Three trance lectures by Chan through Ivy Northage about the transition through death and beyond. Contains much vital guidance in its few pages and can be recommended to the new enquirer.

***The Book of Meditation: The Complete Guide to Modern* by Patricia Carrington. Element Books 1997, 337 pp., £9.99, p/b.** An authoritative overview by an academic who has taught psychology at Princeton and now teaches in a medical school. The author is the originator of Clinically Standardised Meditation. The book is indeed comprehensive and can be recommended to beginners and experts alike.

***The Body and the Self* by José Luis Bermudez & Others. The MIT Press 1995, 376 pp., £14.95, p/b.** A state of the art collection of articles on the nature of self-consciousness, the nature of bodily awareness and the relation between the two. Issues considered include sensation, proprioception, action, connection with the environment. An excellent complement to the more disembodied areas of this discipline of consciousness studies.

***Emotions in Social Life* by Gillian Bendelow and Simon J. Williams (eds). Routledge 1998, 336 pp., £17.99, p/b.** Popularised by Daniel Goleman's book on emotional intelligence, books on aspects of the emotions are suddenly proliferating. This volume shows how crucial

implications arise from the separation of reason and feeling. It covers critical perspectives on the topic, the mediation of emotional experience, the body and sexuality, intimacy, and the connection between emotions and health. Mainly of academic interest, this book will nevertheless appeal to those looking for an in depth sociological treatment of the topic.

***Dictionary of Transactional Analysis* by Tony Tilney. Whurr Publishers Ltd 1998, 150 pp., £17.50, p/b.** A comprehensive dictionary of terms used in the psychological approach of transactional analysis. Useful as a reference for all psychologists and therapists.

***I Don't Want to Talk About It* by Terrence Real. Gill & Macmillan 1997, 383 pp., £12.99, p/b.** A text on overcoming problems associated with male depression. Comprehensive in its coverage, the book examines a wide range of predicaments with illustrative composite case histories.

Future Studies/Economics/Ecology

***Vital Signs* by Lester R Brown, Michael Renner, Christopher Flavin. Earthscan Publications Ltd 1997, 165 pp., £12.95, p/b.** The latest edition of this book about environmental trends that are shaping our future, and which is compulsory reading for all concerned global citizens. Samples can be found on www.worldwatch.org The overview is followed by a section on key indicators on food, energy, agriculture, the atmosphere, the economy, transport, society and the military. The second section contains special reports on topics such as the ageing of world population, fall in arms production and the rise of the electric car.

***Turning Point* by Robert U. Ayres. Earthscan Publications Ltd 1998, 258 pp., £15.95, p/b.** An impressive analysis of our current economic trends and predicament by an economics professor at the INSEAD European Business School. The treatment is both vigorous and rigorous. Ayres argues the case that growth per se is no longer increasing welfare, and warns of the dangers of social as well as ecological and economic instability in a world where the systems are set up to benefit the richest 20%. He proposes a fundamental restructuring of economic activity to lay the emphasis on service rather than goods. Highly recommended.

***Damaged Life* by Tod Sloan. Routledge 1996, 157 pp., £12.99, p/b.** Subtitled *the crisis of the modern psyche*, this book takes a penetrating look at the origins and features of modern industrial malaise, examining the psychological problems posed by modernisation and ways in which we can minimise its negative effects.

***Creating a Flower Meadow* by Yvette Verner. Green Books Ltd 1998, 144 pp., £9.95, p/b.** A charming and informative book with all the information you need to create a flower meadow of your own, if you can find the land or own it already. Has chapters on soil, trees, wild flowers, hedges, birds, animals, insects and meadow crafts. There is a meadow calendar at the end, plus a directory of useful addresses. A handbook for creating your own piece of biodiversity we shall be using it ourselves in a patch just outside here.

***Fundamentals of Biogeography* by Richard John Huggett. Routledge 1998, 261 pp., £14.99, p/b.** A comprehensive introductory textbook on biogeography that presents the ecology, geography and history of plants and animals. It defines and explains the nature of populations, communities and ecosystems, the interaction of these populations and the evolution of communities; in a chapter entitled 'Life, Humans and Morality', it examines a number of ethical issues including species exploitation and biodiversity. It is encouraging to

see texts such as this engaging in the contemporary debate; they serve the important purpose of providing more technical information for those interested in environmental politics and economics.

***Ecosystems* by Gordon Dickinson and Kevin Murphy. Routledge 1998, 190 pp., £11.99, p/b.** A textbook lucidly explaining the basic concepts of ecosystem theory and how ecosystems work. Case studies bring the theory alive and the final two chapters explain the human impact on the environment and examine the issues of global environmental change in terms of ecosystem response and evolution. Highly recommended for those who would like to deepen their technical knowledge in this field.

***Can the Green Movement Save Mankind?* by Hans Vosmer (SMN). Janus Publishing Company 1998, 141 pp., £8.95, p/b.** Subtitled *Toxic Signs in Our Eyes*, this is an unusual book. The author reckons that we have all consumed 50 pounds of synthetic chemicals by the age of thirty this can be seen through iridology. The author explains its background and diagnostic techniques then goes on to recommend various forms of healing and healthy diet as a way of counteracting the toxic load.

***Unruly World* by Andrew Herod. Routledge 1997, 256 pp., £16.99, p/b.** A compendium of essays about the nature of the globalisation process and its manifestations in government and business. Asks if states can keep up with accelerating changes in communication and tackles issues against a geographical background. Of more interest to specialists in the field.

***Power without Responsibility* by James Curran and Jean Seaton. Routledge 1997, 420 pp., £12.99, p/b.** Fifth edition of this book regarded as the most authoritative guide to the press and broadcasting in Britain today. Deals with the history, sociology, theory and politics of the media. This edition has been revised in the light of new technology and the increasing globalisation of the media. Required reading for all involved in the field.

***Cybertrends* by David Brown. Penguin Books 1997, 280 pp., £8.99, p/b.** A thoughtful analysis of the Net that questions techno-utopian visions of progress and asks if real communication is actually taking place. Suggests in its conclusion that communication is fundamentally about love and that the cybernetic world has yet to acknowledge this. Asks if we can find the modesty to embrace terrestrial limits and enter into a more respectful dialogue with each other.

***The Knowledge-Enabled Organisation* by Daniel R Tobin. American Management Association 1998, 214 pp., £21.99, h/b.** Argues that only those companies that create a positive learning environment will thrive in the future and advocates a move away from training towards learning, a process that will enhance the lives of individuals as well as the companies in which they work. Information and skills need to be applied directly to the job and shared with colleagues in order to make a positive difference.

***Who Owns the Sun?* by Daniel M Berman & John T O'Conner. Chelsea Green Publishing Company 1997, 331 pp., £12.95, p/b.** A radical analysis of solar energy and its possible emergence. Considers the underlying political and economic power structures of our current energy supply and shows how a solar based energy supply could also lead to much greater participatory democracy.

General

***The Sevenfold Circle* by Lynn Frances and Richard Bryant-Jefferies (SMN). Findhorn Press 1998, 230 pp., £9.95, p/b.** An unusual book that is partly autobiographical and partly descriptive. It begins with the authors' own stories before moving on to a history of sacred dance and the incorporation of Alice Bailey's Seven Rays into dance and movement. The then describe the outline of some workshops (which use visualisation), including dancing the Zodiac, the use of symbols such as the circle and cross, and even a dance involving the characters in Pooh! A sense of fun comes out of the book and indeed at the dance sessions that I have attended and the authors are certainly right to advocate the importance of dance as a form of sharing and creative expression.

Further details of the Circle Dance workshops conducted by Lynn Frances and Richard Bryant-Jeffries can be obtained from: 2 Harts Gardens, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QA,

UK. Email:

lynnrichard@hartcentre.demon.co.uk

Web: www.hartcentre.demon.co.uk

***The Body in Everyday Life* by Sarah Nettleson and Jonathan Watson. Routledge 1998, 300 pp., £16.99, p/b.** Explores how ordinary people talk about and experience their bodies. Deals with physical and emotional bodies, illness and disability, gender, and ageing.

***One Light* by Jon Whistler. Light Pulsations Ionic Healing Pty Ltd 1996, 236 pp., p/b.** The story of an extraordinary encounter with an extraterrestrial form of intelligence bringing a wake-up message to humanity: we have forgotten our true identity, the sense of separation from each other is an illusion and we need to counter the dangers of mass destructive thinking.

***Dance of the Soul* by Ardella Nathanael. ABC Enterprises 1997, 152 pp., \$17.95.** A sensitive and informative book on Peter Deunov's paneurythmy. The author has many years of experience dancing and teaching this sacred dance and provides her own insights into the movements. Complete with new translations of the lyrics, music and diagrams.

***Spirit Child* by Isabella M. Kirkton. Findhorn Press 1998, £6.95, p/b.** The author's remarkable and moving experience of an abortion at the age of 42 and its traumatic and initiatic after effects. A powerful phantom birth experience catapults her into experiences of another reality in which she meets the 'spirit child' who would have been her daughter and establishes a close relationship. This is both touching and agonising for her and it proves a long road to healing, part of which involves the writing of the book. Experiences such as these make one consider abortion in a new light although the book itself wisely makes no judgement on the issue.