

Women in Science: Some Books of the Year

Not only laments over the scarcity of women in science but complaints that those who have gotten in do not receive adequate acknowledgement continue. By now a rather large literature has accumulated to help remedy the latter deficiency. Bibliographies appearing in the Book Review section in two previous issues of *Science* focused on women (255, 1449 [1992] and 260, 377 [1993]) have given information about many of these works, and the past year has brought still more, some of which are described below.

A Matter of Choices. *Memoirs of a Female Physicist.* FAY AJZENBERG-SELOVE. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, NJ, 1994. x, 234 pp. + plates. \$40; paper, \$18. *Lives of Women in Science.*

Women in Chemistry and Physics. A Biobibliographic Sourcebook. LOUISE S. GRINSTEIN, ROSE K. ROSE, and MIRIAM H. RAFAILOVICH, Eds. Greenwood, New York, 1993. xxii, 721 pp. \$99.50.

Women Physiologists. An Anniversary Celebration of Their Contributions to British Physiology. LYNN BINDMAN, ALISON BRADING, and TILLI TANSEY, Eds. Portland, Chapel Hill, NC, 1993. x, 166 pp., illus., + plates. Paper, \$15 or £9.99.

The History of Women and Science, Health, and Technology. A Bibliographic Guide to the Professions and the Disciplines. Second edition. PHYLLIS HOLMAN and RIMA D. APPLE, Eds. University of Wisconsin System Women's Studies Librarian, Madison, WI, 1993. vi, 100 pp. Paper.

History of Women in Science for Young People. VIVIAN SHELTON EPSTEIN. Published by the author, 212 South Dexter St., Denver, CO 80222, 1994. ii, 42 pp., illus. \$14.95; paper, \$7.95.

In the foreword to *A Matter of Choices* the series editor, Ann Hibner Koblitz, addresses the claims of "theoretical feminists" that science embodies "masculinist ideals" by countering that these thinkers seem "unaware that the lives of women scientists often call into question the basic tenets of gender and science theory." Whatever the merits of this argument, which Koblitz does not develop in detail, the intent of *Lives of Women in Science* is in the tradition of righting the record. In the present volume of the series Fay Ajzenberg-Selove, a nuclear physicist, tells her own story. Of Polish and Russian origin, Ajzenberg-Selove came to the United States via France in 1940, earned a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, and pursued a research and teaching career at various institu-

tions, becoming a professor of physics at the University of Pennsylvania (from which she is now retired) in 1973. In the autobiography she does not describe her work in great technical detail but tells many stories of collaborations, friendships, and travels and writes enthusiastically of her marriage to another physicist. Overall the impression the book conveys is one of a happy and rewarding career despite some hardships associated with being female (one cause for regret the author does note is having been persuaded to tone down the "robust language" of her original manuscript).

Given the number of works whose existence is documented in the bibliographies cited above, the claims for uniqueness made in the introductory sections of *Women in Chemistry and Physics* may seem excessive, but the coverage in this "biobibliographic sourcebook" does extend beyond such regulars in the genre as Hypatia and the various Nobelists. The volume gives accounts of the lives and work of 75 women, arranged alphabetically from Ajzenberg-Selove to Rosalyn Sussman Yalow. The selection of biographees is essentially limited to those born before 1933 (the sole exception being the late Beatrice Tinsley, one of only three astronomers included). Beyond this, the stated criteria for inclusion are a set of measures of recognition achieved, ranging from "attainment of advanced degrees despite extensive familial and societal pressures" to "participation on journal editorial boards." The individual biographies (in which "work" is separated from lives) are typically four pages in length and are followed by (in some cases deliberately selective) bibliographies of publications by and about the subjects. Several appendixes and an index conclude the volume. As is not always the case in such works, a considerable proportion of the contributors to this one are men.



Participants in the "first ever" meeting on women in physics, 1971, organized for the American Physical Society by Fay Ajzenberg-Selove. Left to right, C. S. Wu, Ajzenberg-Selove, and Betsy Ancker-Johnson. [From *A Matter of Choices*; reprinted from *Physics Today*]



Physiologists from Bedford College, London, on a sea voyage to America for the 13th International Physiological Congress in 1929. About 400 physiologists and their families were aboard the ship. "Standing: The Misses Henderson, M. Pickford, M. Bond. Sitting: M. Brazier, Mrs. Ogden, Miss Chen, Miss Stevens, Professor Murray. On the life buoy: Miss A. U. Stratford." [From *Women Physiologists*; reprinted from Y. Zotterman, "The Minnekahda Voyage," 1968]

Also in the biobibliographic tradition and among the few "women in science" books *Science* has received from abroad, *Women Physiologists*, sponsored by the Physiological Society, London, contains accounts of the lives and work of 18 British female physiologists. The book opens with an essay by Tansey that takes as its point of departure the expressed reluctance of male members of the society "to dine with ladies smelling of dog—the men smelling of dog, that is." Women were admitted in 1915, however, and to commemorate the event their successors have produced a set of biobibliographies of women members now deceased, retired, or past normal retirement age but still active. These are arranged according to a sort of class system, the first section being devoted to persons who have been designated Dames of the British Empire (the late Harriette Chick and Janet Vaughan) or Fellows of the Royal Society (six others, four of them still living) and the second treating the lives and work of ten "other notable women" members. The treatment of each physiologist consists of a several-page biography, a bibliography of "key publications" and "key sources," and a commentary on and partial reprinting of a "selected paper" by the subject. The volume includes an index and a section of photographs.

A "Bibliographic Guide" the production of which was "spearheaded" by the Women's Caucus of the History of Science Society made its first appearance in 1988 under the editorship of Susan E. Shearing. The updated version—with the aim of being "suggestive rather than comprehensive"—includes citations, annotated in some cases, of a total of 2505 items. Coverage extends through 1992 and in some cases into 1993. The entries are arranged under six general headings:

Overviews (including tools for teaching); Women in the Scientific Professions (divided into six fields); Health and Biology (covering both women as health professionals and issues of women's health); Home Economics/Domestic Science; Technology; and Books for Older Children and Young Adults (an innovation of this edition and containing 72 entries). There is also an author index. The work is available in hard copy free of charge "while supplies last" or electronically via e-mail.

Science has made no attempt to cover the children's literature on women in science, which like the adult literature consists heavily of biographies, but Epstein's *History . . . for Young People* appeared in our offices just as this issue was going to press. Intended for readers (the author specifies girls) aged 9 through 14, it gives one-page accounts of the lives of 30 women arranged under the headings From Gatherers to the Nineteenth Century; Healers; Physicists; Researchers and Inventors; Environmental Changers; Understanding People; and Expanding Career Choices. Illustrations by the author, some in color, accompany the narratives, and the book includes a bibliography and a listing of notables not otherwise discussed.

—Katherine Livingston

Books Received

Advances in Neutron Capture Therapy. Albert H. Soloway, Rolf F. Barth, and David E. Carpenter, Eds. Plenum, New York, 1993. xxx, 829 pp., illus. \$169.50. From a symposium, Columbus, OH, Sept. 1992.

AIDS, HIV, and Mental Health. Michael B. King. Cambridge University Press, New York, 1993. x, 197 pp. \$39.95; paper, \$29.95. Psychiatry and Medicine.

Alcohol, Cell Membranes, and Signal Transduction in Brain. Christer Alling *et al.*, Eds. Plenum, New York, 1993. xiv, 320 pp., illus. \$85. From a symposium, Lund, Sweden, June 1993.

The Bamboos. F. A. McClure. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC, 1994. xxii, 345 pp., illus. Paper, \$16.95. Augmented reprint, 1966 ed.

Basic Neurochemistry. Molecular, Cellular, and Medical Aspects. George J. Siegel *et al.*, Eds. 5th ed. Raven, New York, 1993. xx, 1080 pp., illus. \$67.

Biological Basis of Substance Abuse. Stanley G. Korenman and Jack D. Barchas, Eds. Oxford University Press, New York, 1993. xviii, 516 pp., illus. \$75.

Biological Relationships Between Africa and South America. Peter Goldblatt, Ed. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT, 1994. x, 630 pp., illus. \$85. From a symposium, St. Louis, Oct. 1990.

Biomembrane Protocols. Vol. 2, Architecture and Function. John M. Graham and Joan A. Higgins, Eds. Humana, Totowa, NJ, 1993. xiv, 362 pp., illus. Spiral bound, \$59.50. Methods in Molecular Biology, 27.

Chemical Nomenclatures and the Computer. D. J. Polton. Research Studies, Taunton, Somerset, U.K., and Wiley, New York, 1994. xii, 264 pp., illus. \$74.95. Computers and Chemical Structure Information Series, 4.

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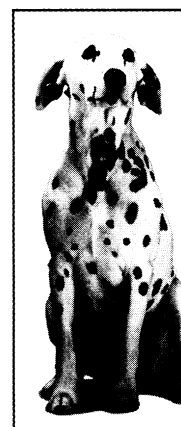
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Women Physiologists

Edited by L Bindman, A Brading & E M Tansey

"My congratulations to the editors and Portland on a truly delightful book. The design and planning of the content and its presentation are splendid"

Professor Hilary Rose, University of Bradford

1 85578 049 6 Paperback 175 pages July 1993 US\$15.00

Clinical Detective Stories

A Problem-Based Approach to Cases in Energy and Acid-Base Metabolism

M L Halperin & F S Rolleston

1 85578 999 X Paperback 300 pages March 1993 US\$32.50

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R J Beynon

1 85578 009 7 May 1993 US\$17.00

Membrane Protein Expression Systems:

A User's Guide

Edited by Gwyn Gould

1 85578 031 3 Jan 1994 US\$45.50

Nitric Oxide:

Brain and Immune System

Edited by S Moncada, G Nisticò

& E A Higgs

1 85578 046 1 Dec 1993 US\$124.00

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Proteolysis and Protein Turnover

Edited by J S Bond and A J Barrett

1 85578 039 9 Jan 1994 US\$100.00

Immunotechnology

Edited by J P Gosling and D R Reen

1 85578 035 6 June 1993 US\$115.00

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