

its mirror image is said to be *chiral*.

Starting in chapter 6, *The Knot Book* introduces the Jones polynomial through an elementary construction (due to this reviewer) called the bracket polynomial. The bracket polynomial is based on the simplest properties of knot and link (more than one loop) projections, and it explicitly embodies the relationships between statistical mechanics and knot theory that have pervaded the subject ever since Jones made his discovery. With a little work, the reader will go from being a naive knot topologist on page 147 to being equipped to prove the chirality of the trefoil on page 155. This is the watershed. It is the fond hope of this reviewer that every reader of *The Knot Book* will work through these critical eight pages of the text.

The book continues with material on the new invariants of knots and links and on applications to alternating knots. Chapter 7 details applications to knots in biology (DNA), chemistry, and physics. Later chapters discuss graphs, statistical mechanics, three-dimensional topology, and knots in higher dimensions.

Adams's *Knot Book* is a terrific addition to the assemblage of books on knots. It

deserves to be on the shelf of every natural scientist, sailor, climber, magician, and mathematician.

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Books Received

All God's Mistakes. Genetic Counseling in a Pediatric Hospital. Charles L. Bosk. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1992. xxvi, 195 pp. \$24.95.

The American Museum of Natural History's Book of Dinosaurs and Other Ancient Creatures. Joseph Wallace. Simon and Schuster, New York, 1994. 144 pp., illus. \$25.

The Application of Economic Techniques in Environmental Impact Assessment. David James. Kluwer, Norwell, MA, 1994. xvi, 298 pp., illus. \$110 or £76 or Dfl. 195. Environment and Management, vol. 4.

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Chemical Methods in Prokaryotic Systematics.

Michael Goodfellow and Anthony G. O'Donnell, Eds. Wiley, New York, 1994. xxvi, 576 pp., illus. \$129.95. Modern Microbiological Methods.

Electrical Safety. A Guide to the Causes and Prevention of Electrical Hazards. J. Maxwell Adams. Institution of Electrical Engineers, Stevenage, Herts, U.K., 1994. viii, 194 pp., illus. \$75. IEE Power Series, 19.

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Gypsies and Travelers in North America. An Annotated Bibliography. William G. Lockwood and Sheila Salo. Gypsy Lore Society, Cheverly, MD, 1994. iv, 196 pp. Paper, \$20. Gypsy Lore Society Publication no. 6.

International Stratigraphic Guide. A Guide to Stratigraphic Classification, Terminology, and Procedure. Amos Salvador, Ed. 2nd ed. International Union of Geological Sciences, Trondheim, Norway, and Geological Society of America, Boulder, CO, 1994. xx, 214 pp., illus. \$48.50.

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Multistage Selection and Ranking Procedures. Second-Order Asymptotics. Nitish Mukhopadhyay and Tumulesh K. S. Solanky. Dekker, New York, 1994. xvi, 405 pp. \$125. Statistics: Textbooks and Monographs, vol. 142.

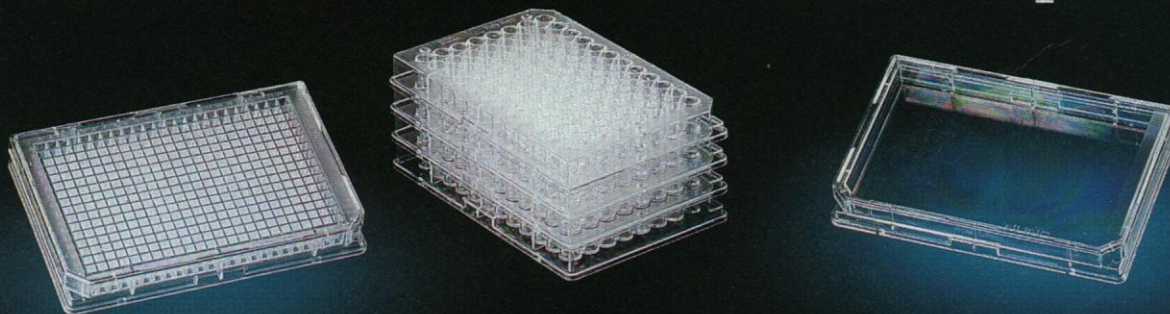
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Steroid Contraceptives and Women's Response. Regional Variability in Side-Effects and Pharmacokinetics. Rachel Snow and Peter Hall, Eds. Plenum, New York, 1994. x, 266 pp., illus. \$85. Reproductive Biology. From a symposium, Exeter, NH, Oct. 1990.

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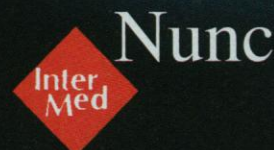
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