



Vignettes: Matters of Wording

The language we have now has suffered damage wholesale, the faults encountered come not as single spies but in battalions . . . : words misunderstood or misapplied, idioms distorted, prepositions used at random, jargon and imagery blanketing thought, neologisms proliferating without need, grammar and syntax defied to no purpose.

The National Institute of Mental Health (not yet Wellness) promotes the Search for Alternative Pursuits. First we are told that "alternative is not just a synonym for substitute, since it implies being more satisfactory and not merely a replacement." The distinction is imaginary—why not say Preferable Pursuits and cut the explanation? We are further told: "Exercise your capacity for *alternating*." Query: Is it pronounced *-tivving* or *-tyving*? It should be pronounced detestable.

Computer certainly belongs to the good kind [of neologism]—no fancy tricks with Greek, short enough, and plain. Only a slight fault can be found with it: it sounds like a synonym for *calculator*, and the thing itself is not a mathematical machine but a logical one. The result is that many people who think they have "no head for math" keep away from "computer science" because of its name. Some have found by accident that they had good "logical heads" and have become able programmers. The French for *computer* is *ordinateur*, which gives a truer idea of what happens inside.

—Jacques Barzun, in *Simple and Direct: A Rhetoric for Writers* (second edition; University of Chicago Press)

ger outside the United Kingdom that that is all that is possible at the present stage of development of this field.

The study of Quaternary fossil beetles is daunting to say the least. Of all species of animals known, three-quarters are insects. One of every four species of all known organisms is a beetle, and the modern beetle fauna of North America alone numbers 30,000 species. And most keys are to whole beetles, whereas the fossils are usually individual body parts. Learning to be a paleoentomologist has been possible only in a tutorial mode, by studying with an expert. Elias's book will not alleviate that necessity, but it will spread the word that fossil insects are extremely valuable as independent and highly sensitive indicators of past habitats, communities, climates, and human activities. Most of the specialists in various groups of beetles and other insects are aging, and they are not being replaced by a younger generation of able taxonomists. If this book sparks the interest of anyone to study these fascinating animals, living or fossil, it will be worth the substantial effort it took to bring this information together.

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Reprints of Books Previously Reviewed

American Lives. Looking Back at the Children of the Great Depression. John A. Clausen. University of California Press, Berkeley, 1995. Paper, \$18. *Reviewed* 260, 1157 (1993).

Genius in the Shadows. A Biography of Leo Szilard, The Man Behind the Bomb. William Lanouette, with Bela Silard. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1994. Paper, \$18.95. *Reviewed* 261, 1461 (1993).

The Path to the Double Helix. The Discovery of DNA. Robert Olby. Dover, New York, 1994. Paper, \$13.95. *Reviewed* 187, 827 (1975).

Powers of Ten. A Book About the Relative Size of Things in the Universe and the Effect of Adding Another Zero. Philip Morrison et al. Scientific American Library (Freeman), New York, 1994. Paper, \$19.95. *Reviewed* 221, 1281 (1982).

Books Received

Alternatives for Ground Water Cleanup. Committee on Ground Water Cleanup Alternatives, Water Science and Technology Board, Board on Radioactive Waste Management, and the Commission on Geosciences, Environment, and Resources. National Academy Press, Washington, DC, 1994. xviii, 315 pp., illus. \$39.95.

Analysis of Longitudinal Data. Peter J. Diggle, Kung-Yee Liang, and Scott L. Zeger. Clarendon (Oxford University Press), New York, 1994. xii, 253 pp., illus. \$45. Oxford Statistical Science Series, 13.

Animal Achievement. A Unifying Theory of Zoology. F. D. Por. Balaban Publishers, Rehovot, Israel,

1994. iv, 424 pp., illus. Paper, \$49.

Artificial Intelligence and Neural Networks. Steps Toward Principled Integration. Vasant Honavar and Leonard Uhr, Eds. Academic Press, San Diego, CA, 1994. xxii, 653 pp., illus. \$89.95.

Atlas of Prenatal Rat Brain Development. Joseph Altman and Shirley A. Bayer. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, 1994. lxx, 589 pp., illus. \$125.

Autoimmune Disease Models. A Guidebook. Irvin R. Cohen and Ariel Miller, Eds. Academic Press, San Diego, CA, 1994. xviii, 329 pp., illus. \$64.95.

Burger's Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Discovery. Vol. 1, Principles and Practice. Manfred E. Wolff, Ed. 5th ed. Wiley, New York, 1995. xiv, 1064 pp., \$195.

The Coming Plague. Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance. Laurie Garrett. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, 1994. xiv, 750 pp. \$25.

Computational Chemistry Using the PC. Donald W. Rogers. 2nd ed. VCH, New York, 1994. xiv, 247 pp., illus. \$65.

The Cult of the Big Bang. Was There A Bang?. William C. Mitchell. Cosmic Sense Books, Carson City, NV, 1994. 240 pp., illus. Paper, \$11.95 or \$C15.95.

The Cytokine Factsbook. Robin E. Callard and Andy J. H. Gearing. Academic Press, San Diego, CA, 1994. viii, 265 pp., illus. Paper, \$19.50.

Drosophila melanogaster. Practical Uses in Cell and Molecular Biology. Lawrence S. B. Goldstein and Eric A. Fyrberg, Eds. AP Professional (Academic), Cambridge, MA, 1994. xx, 755 pp., illus. \$115; spiralbound, \$65. Methods in Cell Biology, vol. 44.

The Evolution of Insect Flight. Andrei K. Brodsky. Oxford University Press, New York, 1994. xiv, 229 pp., illus. \$82.50.

Eye Movements in Reading. Jan Ygge and Gunnar Lennerstrand, Eds. Pergamon (Elsevier Science), Tarrytown, NY, 1994. xvi, 374 pp., illus. \$125 or £79. Wenner-Gren International Series, vol. 64.

Flow Cytometry. Zbigniew Darzynkiewicz, J. Paul Robinson, and Harry A. Crissman, Eds. 2nd ed. Academic Press, San Diego, CA, 1994. Part A, xxxii, 591 pp., illus., + plates. \$110; spiralbound, \$59.95. Part B, xxxii, 697 pp., illus., + plates. \$110; spiralbound, \$59.95. Methods in Cell Biology, vols. 41-42.

The Geography of Innovation. Maryann P. Feldman. Kluwer, Norwell, MA, 1994. xii, 155 pp. \$91.50 or £62.50 or Dfl. 160. Economics of Science, Technology and Innovation, vol. 2.

Molecular and Cell Biological Aspects of Gastroenteropancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumor Disease. Bertram Wiedenmann et al., Eds. New York Academy of Sciences, New York, 1994. xii, 535 pp., illus. \$145. Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, vol. 733. Based on a conference, Berlin, Germany, Nov. 1993.

Physics on Course 1995. Physics Courses in Higher Education in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Commencing in 1995. Institute of Physics, London, England, 1994. iv, 140 pp.

Physiological Basis of Aging and Geriatrics. Paola S. Timiras, Ed. 2nd ed. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, 1994. x, 326 pp., illus. \$79.95.

Phytoplankton in Turbid Environments. Rivers and Shallow Lakes. J.-P. Descy, C. S. Reynolds, and J. Padišák, Eds. Kluwer, Norwell, MA, 1994. x, 214 pp., illus. \$155 or £102.50 or Dfl. 250. Developments in Hydrobiology, 100. From a workshop, Mont Rigi, Belgium, July 1993. Reprinted from *Hydrobiologia*, vol. 289 (1994).

Pioneers in Historical Archaeology. Breaking New Ground. Stanley South, Ed. Plenum, New York, 1994. xiv, 233 pp., illus. \$45.

Profession of Conscience. The Making and Meaning of Life-Sciences Liberalism. Robert Hunt Sprinkle. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 1995. x, 257 pp. \$21.95 or £21.50.

Profiles in Cognitive Aging. Douglas H. Powell, with Dean K. Whitla. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA, 1994. xviii, 251 pp., illus. \$39.95.

Protein Structure by Distance Analysis. H. Bohr and S. Brunak, Eds. IOS Press, Burke, VA, 1994. xxiv, 335 pp., illus. \$82 or Dfl. 160 or £55 or DM 143.

Symmetry and Topology in Chemical Reactivity. Pieter E. Schipper. World Scientific, River Edge, NJ, 1994. xii, 272 pp., illus. \$58.

The 20-cm Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope. Peter L. Manly. Cambridge University Press, New York, 1994. xviii, 265 pp., illus. \$29.95.