

Agriculture

Ottesen, Carole. **Ornamental Grasses: The Amber Wave.**

McGraw. Oct. 1989. c.240p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-07-047933-X. \$29.95. GARDENING

Grasses are fast becoming fashionable plants for the landscape. This book explains how to use grasses as hedges, ground covers, borders, or as striking specimen plants. The selection and care of native and exotic grasses, including bamboo, is covered. Descriptions of the grasses explain how to select for climate conditions and how effectively to combine grasses with other plants. Ottesen traces the history of ornamental grass use in Victorian and German gardens, and interviews some modern-day champions of ornamental grass. Sources for plants and seeds are also included. For a less expensive (though briefer and less detailed) alternative, libraries may wish to purchase Thomas Reinhardt's *Ornamental Grass Gardening: Design, Ideas, Functions and Effects* (Price/Stern/Sloan, 1989).—Peter C. Leonard, Mt. Lebanon P.L., Pa.

Health & Medicine

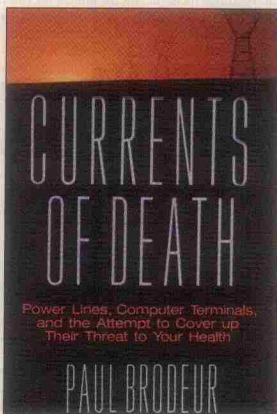
★Brodeur, Paul. **Currents of Death: Power Lines, Computer Terminals, and the Attempt to Cover Up Their Threat to Your Health.**

S. & S. Oct. 1989. c.296p. index. ISBN 0-671-67845-0. \$19.95. HEALTH

Can exposure to low-level electromagnetic fields—from power lines, electric blankets, electrically heated waterbeds, and video display terminals (VDTs)—cause leukemia or other serious ailments? Some scientists think so, but Brodeur relentlessly chronicles in this book how their research has been ignored or covered up by the scientific community and (perhaps more ominously) the power industry. Exhaustively researched, this is also exhausting to read; though a first-rate investigator, Brodeur is not master of the narrative flow. But that is small criticism for an important book which is highly recommended for academic and public libraries. To be serialized in *The New Yorker*.—Judith Eanarino, George Washington Univ. Lib., Washington, D.C.

★Cousins, Norman. **Head First: The Biology of Hope.**

Dutton. Oct. 1989. c.304p. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-525-24805-6. \$18.95. MED
Cousins, author of *Anatomy of an Ill-*



Can electric blankets ruin your health? Find out who's been trying to keep you from finding out, p. 112

ness (LJ 9/1/79), left his long-time editorship of *The Saturday Review* and has spent the last 10 years on the faculty of the UCLA School of Medicine. There, he set out to uncover scientific evidence that "positive thinking" produces biochemical reactions that can control the outcome of a wide range of illnesses. This book recounts Cousins's study of this theory, his interactions with others in this medical community, and his successful crusade to get UCLA to include a course on physician-patient relationships and its effect on the outcome of illness in its curriculum. This book is well-written in Cousins's usual literate style, and pertinent notes, glossaries, bibliographies, and index are included. This is an important and necessary purchase for medical, academic, and public libraries. [Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 5/15/89].—Erna Chamberlain, SUNY at Binghamton Libs.

DeLyster, Femmy. **Jane Fonda's New Pregnancy Workout and Total Birth Program.**

S. & S. Nov. 1989. c.250p. photogs. index. ISBN 0-671-66763-7. \$24.95.

HEALTH
DeLyster, author of *Jane Fonda's Workout Book for Pregnancy, Birth, & Recovery* (LJ 10/15/82) here expands and updates the earlier book. Many of the same exercises appear, but there are also new ones, including some which use giant rubber bands for resistance. In ad-

dition, there is more advice on coping with pregnancy itself, including the problems which necessitate bed rest. There is guidance on choosing a hospital and a pediatrician; on helping older children accept a new baby; and on physical and environmental improvements to make before conception. A good purchase for public libraries needing such material, whether they own the earlier book or not.—Susan B. Hagloch, Tuscarawas Cty. P.L., New Philadelphia, Ohio

Preconceptions: Preparation for Pregnancy.

Little. Oct. 1989. c.224p. ed. by John T. Queenan & Kimberly K. Leslie. illus. index. ISBN 0-316-72893-4. \$14.95. MED

It is hard to criticize a book full of sensible advice and basically up-to-date and accurate medical information. But there are already a number of books in print on planning for pregnancy. All seem to cover about the same information, and do go into more detail than standard books on pregnancy. Some people will probably find this type of book helpful and reassuring. This title is as good as some of the others—Sheldon H. Cherry's *Planning Ahead for Pregnancy* (LJ 8/87), Norra Tannenhaus's *Pre-Conceptions* (Contemporary Bks., 1988), John R. Sussman & R. Blake Levitt's *Before You Conceive* (Bantam, 1989), and Carol Rinzler *The Safe Pregnancy Book* (LJ 3/1/85)—but no better. Recommended only if interest wavers.—Mary Chitty, Massachusetts Coll. of Pharmacy & Allied Health Sciences Lib., Boston

Shohen, Sandra & Ann Loring. **Emergency!**

Thomas Dunne Bk: St. Martin's. Nov. 1989. c.192p. ISBN 0-312-03330-3. \$16.95. MED

New York City's Roosevelt Hospital provides the setting for a discussion of the medical services of an emergency room. Although Shohen was administrator of Roosevelt's emergency room for eight years, daily management issues and dilemmas are glossed over, and the work of the medical and support staff is scarcely acknowledged. Instead, the focus is on the patient. However, with the exception of a cursory description of rape crisis counseling, much of this book is anecdotal gossip. Other books about emergency departments are recommended: Edith Alston's *Emergency Room* (LJ 2/1/85) and two books by Randall Sword, *Trauma Center* (LJ 1/15/82) and *Emergency Room* (LJ 1/15/82).—Mary Hemmings, Univ. of Calgary Lib., Alberta

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