tors in the Wilderness, Dr. Paton expands on this theme, providing vignettes from his own extensive experiences in remote wilderness areas throughout the world as well as from other notable events in history where environmental medical factors influenced outcomes. This comparing and contrasting between past and present wilderness emergencies and how they were/are dealt with is undoubtedly what makes this book a unique contribution and a very worthwhile read.

As much as this reviewer thoroughly enjoyed and highly recommends this book, he was somewhat surprised at the lack of illustrations, especially given that Dr. Paton's artistic talents have recently been featured in published works such as Peter Steele's impressive biography, *Eric Shipton: Everest and Beyond* (Mountaineers Books, 1998). The publisher's decision to exclude illustrations from this work is unfortunate from this reviewer's point of view, but such is the reality today for an author who must realize that most publishers in the industry deal with ever-rising costs in production by trimming what they see as economically unnecessary additions to a book. Regardless, the text of this work stands by itself. Those of us who seek to understand how the contributions of our predecessors throughout history have helped to shape the current state of knowledge, medical and otherwise, are most fortunate that Dr. Paton has used his extensive scholarly knowledge of and personal experience in wilderness medicine to bring us this delightful work.

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Jellyfish Blooms: Ecological and Societal Importance

J. E. Purcell, W. W. Graham, and H. J. Dumont, editors
Boston, MA: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2001
US \$110.00, 333 pages, hardcover

Jellyfish are to the oceans what pigeons are to cities. Both animals seem to be able to flourish in environments that have been radically altered by human activities.

In many places around the world, jellyfish populations are dramatically increasing. Although the increase may be part of a natural cycle in some areas, the overall upward trend far exceeds anything that would be naturally expected. The suspected cause of the increase is human disruption of coastal ecosystems and other human-induced environmental stress, such as eutrophication of the water from sewage or fertilizer runoff, overfishing of competitor fish species, depletion of sea turtle populations, and rising water temperatures from global warming.

The proliferation of jellyfish has caused record numbers of stings—some resulting in fatalities—of beach-

goers and aquatic sports enthusiasts in Hawaii, New Zealand, and Australia, among other places. Likewise, the booming jellyfish populations have wreaked severe economic damage in the Gulf of Mexico and some other places where fishing nets are now filled with slimy gelatin instead of succulent shrimp.

Jellyfish Blooms: Ecological and Societal Importance memorializes the Proceedings of the International Conference on Jellyfish Blooms, held in Gulf Shores, Alabama, in January 2000. The volume is reprinted from the journal *Hydrobiologica*, volume 451 (2001), and comprises selected review and original research papers presented at the conference.

The International Conference on Jellyfish Blooms was designed to integrate information about various aspects of jellyfish blooms as they affect societies around the world. Toward that end, the book is divided into 5 sections. The first section, "Jellyfish and Human Enterprises: Fisheries and Tourism," includes 5 papers on the medical aspects of jellyfish stings, jellyfish as food, and jellyfish fisheries, and interactions between jellyfish and fish. The second section, "Jellyfish and Changing Ecosystems," features 10 papers on the increase in jellyfish blooms in recent years, the effects of environmental factors (eg, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and salinity) on jellyfish population size, and the effects of ctenophores (eg, *Mnemiopsis leidyi*) in the Black Sea. The third section, "Physical/Hydrodynamic Interactions with Jellyfish," containing only 3 papers, focuses on the role that physical processes play in mediating aggregations and distributions of jellyfish. The fourth section, "Jellyfish Reproduction and Population," also containing only 3 papers, reviews reproductive strategies and molecular phylogenetics of jellyfish. The fifth and final section, "General Ecology of Jellyfish," encompasses 6 papers on the morphology, feeding behavior, and parasites of jellies, among other topics. All papers were subjected to full peer review before their original publication in *Hydrobiologica*.

This volume will certainly become a key reference for jellyfish scholars, but it should also be a valuable reference for all aquatic scientists and health professionals who have more than a cursory interest in gelatinous zooplankton.

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Emergent Field Medicine, 1st edition

M. VanRooyen, T. Kirsch, K. Clem, and
C. J. Holliman

New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Publishing, 2002
US \$80.00, 900 pages, softcover

Emergent Field Medicine is a comprehensive text aimed at providing health care workers of all levels a useful