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

reference for working in the Third World. The book is most relevant for physicians.

Emergent Field Medicine was authored and edited by physicians with substantial experience in disaster and refugee medicine; this experience is reflected in the text's organization and clarity. Divided into 24 chapters, the book begins with sections on public health and education, identifying refugee medical priorities, and understanding the cultural context of a situation. It then moves on to the specifics of providing medical care in the field. Each chapter focuses on the practical issues of clinical medicine in developing countries. (Is tuberculosis on your differential diagnosis for a common cause of pelvic inflammatory disease? It should be.) Although the book is meant to serve as a reference text, the chapters are not as detailed as might be expected. Although this lack of detail detracts from its utility as a reference book, the result is a readable and practical book for health care workers of varying backgrounds.

A particularly useful feature of the book is the brief, highlighted sections that emphasize Critical Actions, Key Points, Tips & Tricks, and Did You Know? sections. Unlike some texts where highlighting is overdone, the key points in this book are kept short (usually 1–2 sentences) and relevant.

I was especially pleased with 2 chapters, Anesthesia & Pain Management and Dental Emergencies. The chapter on pain management demonstrates the experience of the authors by focusing on the proper use of ketamine and the expanded role it plays in developing countries, as compared with the current and marginal use it enjoys in the United States. Similar praise applies to the section on dental emergencies, which is the most comprehensive and detailed description of emergency dentistry for non-dentists that I have seen.

If there is a weakness in the book, it is perhaps a lack of photographs. Although many of the book's sections are adequately illustrated with line diagrams, the chapters on the field laboratory and infectious disease in particular suffer from an absence of photos. The few photos that do exist are in the dermatology section and are limited to black and white. Additionally, only 1 chapter concludes with a section outlining additional recommended reading and references. Unlike photographs, the addition of selected references could have been done at little cost.

Overall, this is an excellent book that should be read and carried by anyone who practices medicine in developing countries.

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Perú, 1st edition

David L. Pearson and Les Beletsky
San Diego, CA: Academic Press, 2001
US \$29.95, Can \$44.25, £19.95, 502 pages, softcover

Perú is a general field guide that is part of the *Ecotravellers' Wildlife Guide* series published by Academic Press. The series, aimed at nonspecialized travellers, is designed to provide a single field guide of the birds, reptiles, frogs and other amphibians, insects, and mammals of a given region. With a size and weight that is slightly greater than that of the average Lonely Planet guidebook, the books are small enough to fit in most day-packs and useful enough to make them worth the weight.

The first half of the book describes the geographic ranges, climate, and ecological niches found in Perú. There is a useful chapter describing the Peruvian national park system with brief descriptions of typical park visits. There is a chapter dedicated to each animal class, with sections on the more common or more interesting families. Each animal family section describes the natural history, ecology, behavior, breeding, and endangered or population status, with appropriate focus on how to find and observe the animals in the wild. The sections are written for the educated amateur and, in areas where access to English-language books is limited, make excellent spare-time reading material.

The second half of the book is devoted to color plates of animals, with somewhat of a bias toward the more recognizable birds. The plates are well illustrated and labeled. A brief caption appears on the opposing page that gives common and scientific names, useful identifying features and size, habitat, and range. Although this caption may seem trivial, it is extremely useful and eliminates many frustrating moments of page flipping when trying to identify a bird while it remains in view. The colorful frog and bird sections are the most extensive and interesting, whereas butterflies and other insects are limited to 4 pages of color plates. There is a brief section on flora; however, the plates are of limited utility and have little associated text, so those with botanical inclinations will need a supplemental book.

Perú is a large country with 5 distinct geographic regions and numerous ecological niches. Despite the scope of the topic, the authors have published a well-written general wildlife guide that is useful as a field guide, as a natural history text, and as travel reading material. The amateur naturalist will find *Perú* a useful travel companion that is worth its weight in the backpack, despite the country's sometimes-formidable altitude. However, those who are die-hard bird or butterfly watchers will probably want a more complete manual, as the nature of