Day, A.: **How to Get Research Published in Journals**. - Gower, Aldershot - Brookfield 1996. ISBN 0 566 07767 1 (paperback), 0 566 07886 4 (hardback). 142 pp., GBP 16.95.

Every year new textbooks on scientific writing appear. The reviewed one contains 14 chapters dealing with three main stages of preparing a paper. Part I (Setting your objectives) deals with the decision to publish and with reviewing the literature. Part II (Think 'audience') is on the quality of the prepared paper, on author's understanding reviewers and editors, on selecting the right journal, and on understanding the needs of readers. Part III (From draft to print) describes the ideal procedure of writing a paper and shows the proper elements of style, form of a manuscript, importance of abstracts, *etc.* The process of rewriting the paper, its revision, author's proofs, as well as keeping fit during writing are also shown. An appendix brings a paper review form, list of references (only 24 items, most of them references to articles in journals!), and a subject index.

I have to confess that I do not like this manual (and this is also why I did not write the review earlier). I think that the text is directed mainly to undecided undergraduate students (every scientist knows the well-known Publish or perish! rule), therefore it contains too much psychology. The style of the text shows that Abby Day has an experience both as writer and editor, but why did she not prepare a more compact text accompanied by some figures? The figures could replace the unnecessary paragraphs, such as those describing her pleasure of swimming (p. 125). Why did she not avoid some duplications, *e.g.*, the same text published on pp. 70 and 74, or lengthy discussion of her model called AIDA (pp. 96-98)? A text cut to one half would certainly be much better and useful than the present one.

Z. ŠESTÁK (*Praha*)

Francis, R.L.: **The Illustrated Almanac of Science, Technology, and Invention. Day by Day. Facts, Figures, and the Fanciful**. - Plenum Trade, New York - London 1997. ISBN 0-306-45633-8. 384 pp., USD 28.95.

As the author states, this book "was prepared for those who appreciate history, science, or trivia, for those who want to know what happened on any particular day, and for teachers who want to spice up a day's lesson by discussing with students what happened on that day". After a detailed search in encyclopaedias, biographies, journals, newspapers, *etc.* the author selected for each day of year 10 to 15 entries that happened in different years. The entries from 12th to 15th century are very rare, most entries being from the 19th and 20th centuries (the last ones are for the year 1995). Each day is represented on one page, the most important item is framed and accompanied by a drawing (the drawings sometimes repeat to stress interconnection of the facts). Some entries are of an anecdotal nature. Because the author lives in Florida, events connected with the U.S.A. often prevail, but such entries may be unknown in Europe and therefore they are of interest for any reader.

The primary scope of the author was biology, and this is why many interesting facts are in this field (*e.g.*, facts on endangered animals). Some facts are surprising, *e.g.*, on a wartime ban of sliced bread in the U.S. in an effort to reduce demand for metal reserve parts by bakers, on the preference by Benjamin Franklin of the turkey as the American nation's symbol to the eagle, on a number of printed pages (1 152 times 15 000) of the U.S. government report intending to save the forests of the northern spotted owl, *etc.*

The researchers in photosynthesis may be interested to find that Joseph Priestly, the inventor of photosynthesis, was born on March 13, 1733 (there are further 11 items connected with the scientist), Joseph Caventou, who (together with Pierre-Joseph Pelletier) isolated chlorophyll, on June 30, 1795, Otto Warburg on October 8, 1883, Melvin Calvin on April 8, 1911, *etc.* The search is enabled by a good name index that is supplemented. I recommend this book to everybody interested in science and technical progress as a good source of both education and fun.

Z. ŠESTÁK (*Praha*)