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From Antarctica and black holes to yeast genetics and zippers, a broad array of subjects are represented by the books covered in this special issue of Science. And in the opening group of essay reviews, some current and sometimes unsettling trends in thinking about science and its place in the world at large are examined. A full listing of the books reviewed appears on page 981. [Cover design: C. Faber Smith. Letters A, C, E, G, and U from Mercury Archives/The Image Bank]
Science 264 (5161), 885-1031.