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私の 本棚

My favorite books



● The Great White Tower

I'm sure this long novel will arouse the interest of any university professors. Things may vary largely according to faculty, but the things written in this book were felt real, bringing us into that world in a single swoop. It is well known as a social-oriented novel criticizing vicious aspects of the medical world through corruptions of Prof. Zaizen, the main character. Depictions of Zaizen's internal conflict between his burning desire for high social status and his pure enthusiasm for pursuit of medicine are very impressive. Incidentally, the actor Toshiaki Karasawa, who played the role of Zaizen in the TV drama, was cool.

● Sherlock Holmes

Needless to say, this is a great detective story masterpiece. The image of Sherlock Holmes, who solves criminal cases with his keen observant eye and enormous knowledge, somewhat overlaps with that of researchers who strive to shed light on mysteries of natural phenomena. Viewing a TV drama series produced in England, I found the starring actor Jeremy Brett cool and impressive in all his movements. In the Japanese-dubbed version, Shigeru Tsuyuguchi played the role of Holmes marvelously with his nice low voice. As such, this TV drama series captivated me. Sherlock Holmes as performed by Jeremy Brett is the only idol I admire.

● The Family That Couldn't Sleep

If you are tired of reading stiff textbooks, I'd recommend science nonfictions as alternative sources of knowledge. This book is a nonfiction about fatal familial insomnia which is a dreadful disease (even just to image it) making the patient become sleepless gradually and steadily to death. Just like amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), which is one of the targets of my research, this disease falls into the category of neurodegenerative diseases and is considered to be caused by abnormal structures of proteins (prion). At the present time, there is no remedy or means of prevention for this disease.

● Stag Beetles of the World

I'm somehow attracted by the peculiar form of stag beetles. From the moment I open this book, before I know it I forget the time and find myself returning to childhood. It is said that there are some 1,500 varieties of stag beetles in the world, each having distinctive large mandibles. Not only their appearances, but there are also large differences in the degree of their violent temper and habitats. As such, they deserve being called creatures that exemplify genetic diversity. To tell the truth, I'm still enjoying keeping several stag beetles at home. Someday in the future, I may take up a challenge of clarifying stag beetle's biology at the molecular level (?).

● Ancient Characters

Although I haven't the slightest idea of what ancient characters mean, through characters I can somehow feel ancient people's intentions or eagerness to communicate to others. Whatever the ancient characters may be, each and every one is refined in terms of design, indicating ancient people's good sense. Deciphering of ancient characters is a field of highly advanced science as it involves estimation of the language used, meticulous analysis of the appearance frequency of phonemes, and so forth. Even with hard and miserable time deciphering a short sentence written in cuneiform script some 4,000 years ago, it was found to be simply meant, "Give the money back!" Once deciphered, the illustrations contained in this book may possibly be found meaning total nonsense or something horrible.