Our choice of the best recent books

SHOOTING UP
by Lukasz Kamieniński
(Hurst £25): fascinating history of the use of drugs by soldiers from Homer to the present day

EARTH-SHATTERING EVENTS
by Andrew Robinson (Thames & Hudson £18.95): an ambitious argument that earthquakes change the course of history

HOW TO READ WATER
by Tristan Gooley (Sceptre £20): this study of rivers, lakes, puddles and seas brims over with astonishing facts

THE TRAVELERS
by Chris Pavone (Faber £12.99): Pavone is back on form in a teasing thriller about a journalist caught in a CIA honeytrap