

instance, the chapter on water and electrolytes suffers from a lack of a clear exposition of the normal homeostatic mechanisms and their failure in disease, and from its wide separation from that on the kidneys. In a book of this size, aimed at a predominantly undergraduate readership, it seems unnecessary to give the formulae for 13 steroids; further space could be saved by omitting details of rarely used investigations, such as the hippuric acid test, thus allowing room for a more detailed explanation of clinically common disorders. The text contains some misleading statements, such as that the clearance of urea is invalidated as a test of renal function by the low plasma level accompanying a low protein diet.

Professor Baron and his publishers are to be congratulated on keeping to a price and size attractive to the impecunious student. The book should achieve a circulation as wide as that of the previous edition.

JOAN F. ZILVA.

Life on St. Helena

St. Helena During Napoleon's Exile. By James Kemble, Ch.M., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 297 + ix; illustrated. 55s.) London: Heinemann, 1969.

On 15 October 1815 Napoleon with his personal staff of 26 arrived at Jamestown, St. Helena, for his final exile. Except for the first few weeks, he lived at Longwood House, and there he died on 5 May 1821. Sir Hudson Lowe, a soldier by profession, took up residence as governor at Plantation House on 14 April 1816, having been accompanied on the voyage out by Major Gideon

Gorrequer as aide-de-camp and acting military secretary. Ten weeks after the death of the former emperor they left the rock-bound colony together, Gorrequer taking back to England the secret diary he had kept during his stay. This important manuscript was for many years in the custody of the Court of Chancery, but in 1958 it became the property of the Public Record Office. The technical difficulties inherent in its transcription were shouldered by an acknowledged Napoleonic scholar, so that we now have new information concerning the social and political scene in this isolated community at the most historic part of its life.

It would appear that both governor and aide-de-camp were obsessional and somewhat paranoid. The former had neither liking nor respect for "General Bonaparte" (as he insisted on calling him), mistrusting even the physicians in attendance, and refusing to the end to accept the fact that his prisoner was a sick man. Unwisely he blocked General Bertrand's appeal to Lord Liverpool concerning Napoleon's symptoms in December 1820. Gorrequer, when his tedious and excessive duties so permitted, seems to have been largely occupied with trivia and small gossip; such feelings as he may have had for the former ruler of the French empire are not disclosed. A lengthy entry on the day of the latter's death is devoted entirely to the difficulties of satisfying an impossible chief. Yet this introspective diarist, seemingly dull but with a quaint sense of fun, remained ever loyal to his ill-tempered master, who was given to tergiversations and who vociferated and screamed "like a Billingsgate porter." Indeed, the final entry in the diary is in the nature of an analysis of and a generous apology for Lowe's bad behaviour.

The characters in the diary are given nicknames; thus the governor is known as Mach

(there are several variants of this) or Vecchio; his wife is Donna or sometimes Sultana, and her daughters are called Primogenita (sometimes Prima Fanciulla) and Cadetta. Baron Stürmer is Ostreich or Autrichien, the Marquis de Montchenu is Old Fool Frog, Brigadier General Pine-Coffin is Cercueil, and Louis XVIII is Gros Cochon. Dr. Livingstone of the East India Company has the pseudonyms of Pietra Existentia or Existing Stone. Other resident or visiting dignitaries are Fantastico, Joe Pop'um off, Costive Old Scratch, Dandy in Cut Glass, Jenny Jumps, Stercoraceous, Backstairs, and Great Gun Magnesia. The reader will admire the way in which Mr. Kemble has identified a very large number of persons, and will note that Roaring Bob and Posso are two of very few who still await diagnosis.

After a while the diarist's style with its polyglot jargon unfolds itself to the reader. He relates how Lady Lowe . . . "in a most ungracious ill-tempered manner called out in the middle of pranzo, molti personi a tavola, that the ragazzo Giovanni was standing in dietro di sedia of Ego" or of an uncouth visitor of the governor's "Il Grazioso blew his naso on the rideaux of the letto."

The illustrations are well selected and the many explanatory notes add considerable interest to the book. Gorrequer has provided something of the atmosphere of the island community, and one must be grateful to this observant if secretive clerk who kept a watchful eye on "Neighbour" and on the comings and goings at "the Establishment" just over three miles away from his own office in Plantation House. Can one assume from his choice of nickname that he cherished a more kindly feeling for the deposed emperor than did the governor?

W. H. McMENEMEY.

Books Received

Books noticed here may be reviewed later.

The Management of Infertility. By Melvin L. Taymor, M.D. (Pp. 136 + xiv; illustrated. \$8.50.) Springfield: Charles C. Thomas, 1969.

Laboratory Manual and Workbook for Microbiology in Health and Disease. 4th edition. By Lucille Sommermeyer, R.N., B.S., Ed.M., and Robert Fuerst, B.S., M.A., Ph.D. (Pp. 178 + xi; illustrated. 36s.) London: W. B. Saunders, 1969.

Epidemiology of Chronic Non-Specific Lung Disease (Chronic Bronchitis). By R. Van der Lende. (Pp. 165 + xix. Hfl. 28.) Assen: Van Gorcum, 1969.

Heme and Chlorophyll. Chemical, Biochemical, and Medical Aspects. By Gerald S. Marks. (Pp. 208 + xiii; illustrated. 75s.) London: D. Van Nostrand, 1969.

Proceedings of the European Society for the Study of Drug Toxicity. Vol. X, 1969. Sensitization to Drugs. Edited by S. B. de C. Baker and J. Tripod. (Pp. 256; illustrated. 134s.) Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica, 1969.

The Evolution of Preventive Medicine in the United States Army, 1607-1939. By Stanhope Bayne-Jones, M.D. (Pp. 255 + xiii; illustrated. \$2.50.) Washington, D.C.: Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, 1968.

The Origins of Intellect: Piaget's Theory. By John L. Phillips, jun. (Pp. 149 + xviii. 24s.) San Francisco: W. H. Freeman, 1969.

British Journal of Psychiatry Special Publication No. 3. Studies of Anxiety. Edited by M. H. Lader. (Pp. 166; illustrated. 30s.) Ashford, Kent: Headley, 1969.

Lecture Notes on Dermatology. 2nd edition. By Bethel Solomons, F.R.C.P.I. (Pp. 257 + ix; illustrated. 25s.) Oxford: Blackwell, 1969.

The Medical Clinics of North America. Vol. 53, No. 3. Rehabilitation. Edited by Edward W. Lowman, M.D. (Pp. 253 + viii; illustrated. No price given.) London: W. B. Saunders, 1969.

Fears and Phobias. By Isaac M. Marks, M.D., D.P.H. (Pp. 302; illustrated. 45s.) London: William Heinemann, 1969.

Concerning Teilhard and Other Writings on Science and Religion. By Bernard Towers, M.A., M.B. (Pp. 254. 36s.) London: Collins, 1969.

Studies in Pseudohypertrophic Muscular Dystrophy. By Charles A. Bonsett, M.D. (Pp. 159 + xiii; illustrated. \$11.50.) Springfield: Charles C. Thomas, 1969.

The Future of the Brain Sciences. Proceedings of a Conference held at the New York Academy of Medicine, 2-4 May 1968. Edited by Samuel Bogoch. (Pp. 603 + xxxix; illustrated. \$19.50.) New York: Plenum Press, 1969.

Medicinal Chemistry. Vol. 9. Oral Hypoglycaemic Agents. Pharmacology and Therapeutics. By G. D. Campbell. (Pp. 482 + xviii; illustrated. 130s.) London: Academic Press, 1969.

Spezielle Chirurgie für die Praxis. Edited by Franz Baumgartl, Karl Kremer, and Hans Wilhelm Schreiber. (Pp. 744 + xxiv; illustrated. DM. 270.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1969.

Diseases of the Nose, Throat and Ear. 11th edition. Edited by John Jacob Ballenger, M.S., M.D. (Pp. 948 + xi; illustrated. 292s.) London: Henry Kimpton, Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1969.

Modern Trends in Obstetrics. Vol. 4. Edited by R. J. Kellar, C.B.E., F.R.C.O.G. (Pp. 370 + ix; illustrated. 64s.) London: Butterworths, 1969.

A Manual of Clinical Dermatology. By Peter J. Ashurst, M.D., M.R.C.P.(Ed.). (Pp. 47; illustrated. 10s. 6d.) Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1969.

Gastro-intestinal X-ray Diagnosis. By D. H. Cummack, D.M.R., F.R.C.S.E., F.F.R.R.C.S.I. (Pp. 351 + ix; illustrated. 170s.) Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1969.

Mechanism and Regulation of Insulin Secretion. Acta Diabetologica Latina. Edited by R. Levine and E. F. Pfeiffer. (Pp. 525; illustrated. \$30.) Milan: Casa Editrice "Il Ponte," 1968.