

in this regard during the 1812–14 war, but he is mentioned only for his later appointment as finance minister in a list of Arakcheev's protégés. The question of Arakcheev's role in the "peace party" in 1812 is avoided. The fall of Golitsyn is considered Arakcheev's only intrigue, but he had worked for Speransky's downfall as well. Was Alexander I as intolerant of criticism as Paul I (p. 16)?

Scholars of this period will still have to consult Whiting for a more thorough work, especially on Arakcheev's administration of the military colonies and for bibliography, but for students this is a balanced and highly readable account of an important figure in Russian history.

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SOLDIER-SURGEON: THE CRIMEAN WAR LETTERS OF DR. DOUGLAS

A. REID, 1855–1856. Edited, with introduction and notes, by *Joseph O. Baylen and Alan Conway*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1968. vii, 158 pp. \$5.25.

Thanks in part to the substantial introduction supplied by the editors and to the useful background material at the beginning of each chapter, this little volume gives an interesting glimpse of the medical side of the British campaign in the Crimea. The account is far from complete, for Dr. Reid did not arrive at the front until February 1855, five months after the landing and the battle of the Alma. He also missed the battles of Balaklava and Inkerman, the terrible storm of November 1854, and the horrors of the winter that almost destroyed the British force. Even so, his letters show the lack of a proper medical system in the army, which continued well into 1855. They also reveal the terrible casualties of the British, especially in the costly repulse of the assault on Sevastopol in early June and in the final attack that led to the Russian evacuation of the fortress. In September respect for the Russians—even though defeated—was far higher than when they had held their positions in the spring. On the whole, however, the book is disappointing in its scanty coverage of the military events of the war.

Probably it is only natural that Dr. Reid wrote frequently about trivial matters concerning food (his favorite subject), clothing, shelter, and amusements. He made much of an elegant billiard table that was brought in in the later months of the war, and also devoted a good deal of space to complaints over slow promotion, scanty pay, and the ineptitude of his superiors. He expressed the opinion that the Guards had done little to justify the honors given them and held that the navy had done so little in the war that its men did not deserve the war medal.

This small volume, then, is a rather slight addition to the literature on the Crimean War and is valuable chiefly for the little that it tells about the British medical service.

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W KREGU KONSERWATYWNEJ UTOPII: STRUKTURA I PRZEMIANY
ROSYJSKIEGO SLOWIANOFILSTWA. By *Andrzej Walicki*. Warsaw:
Panstwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1964. 493 pp.

In the decade from 1956 to 1965, Polish historians, philosophers, and sociologists had the opportunity to engage in original research, make use of primary sources