

Book Reviews

the Chair of Psychology in Trinity College Dublin, has produced an excellent account of the man, his work and his contacts, and appends a list of his inventions and a bibliography of his writings. It is a tactful, sympathetic, and well-written book, which complements admirably the copious four-volume biography by Karl Pearson published 1914 to 1930. It can be highly recommended as a balanced and undistorted account of the imperfections as well as the remarkable attributes of a Victorian polymath.

E. T. RENBOURN, *Materials and clothing in health and disease*, with 'The biophysics of clothing materials', London, H. K. Lewis, 1972, 8vo., pp. xii, 599, illus., £9.50.

Dr. E. T. Renbourn is one of the very few experts on clothing and its constituent materials considered as an aspect of human biology and social behaviour. He has, in the past, carried out extensive and important research on the physiological and psychological reactions to the wearing of different kinds of clothing, and he has collected together the results of it in this book. Dr. Renbourn is ideally suited for such work, being a scientist, a medically qualified physiologist, a hygienist, and a psychologist.

He is also a historian, and has, for example, published a noteworthy study of the solar topi and spinal pad, a work that is not widely enough known. The present book contains an excellent historical survey of the functions of materials and clothing, and throughout there are references to historical aspects of clothing and costume. Thus there is 'The natural history of clothing' (pp. 224–245), 'The history of clothing physiology' (pp. 242–249), and a comprehensive treatment of 'The psychology of dress' (pp. 450–471), which, like other parts of the book, has frequent allusions to history.

There is a surfeit of books on the history of costume fashion, and various kinds of clothing but none on the history of clothing from a medical point of view. Dr. Renbourn's treatise is therefore most welcome and can be recommended to all those concerned with this aspect of the history of hygiene and of social behaviour. The technical as well as the historical details should also be of interest for they will provide a deeper insight into the physiology of clothing, an essential background for a historian of clothing.

FRANK RICHARDSON *Napoleon's death. An inquest*, London W. Kimber 1974, 8vo., pp. 271, illus., £4.95.

There is a large volume of literature dealing with Napoleon's various disorders and especially with the cause of his premature death. Major-General F. Richardson, M.D., bases his book on twenty years of study of Napoleonic material and his interpretation of the terminal illness is as plausible as we are ever likely to obtain, unless, of course, some entirely new source material is discovered. His book is well written and the hind-notes are keyed to, but independent of, the text. He has brought together a vast amount of material, although at times its arrangement may be found confusing.

It is usually considered that Napoleon died of carcinoma of the stomach, but by carefully sifting the medical and other evidence General Richardson concludes that

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he succumbed to amebic hepatitis acquired on St. Helena. He shows that the reports of the two naval surgeons, O'Meara and Stokoe, on the fatal illness provide strong support for this diagnosis. Unfortunately their conclusions were not acceptable to the authorities and Stokoe was, in fact, court-martialled for voicing a contrary opinion and was found guilty. General Richardson fully vindicates him and indicts instead the Governor, whose behaviour was callous, unscrupulous, and tyrannical.

Enquiring into the diseases of the famous is a favourite hobby of medical men, and much repetitive, uncritical and speculative writing has resulted. This book, however, is a good example of how a medical specialist can re-examine with scrupulous care a mass of historical clinical evidence that has been investigated many times before and can arrive at a variant and probably correct diagnosis.

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HULDRYCH M. KOELBING, *Im Kampf gegen Pocken, Tollwut, Syphilis. Das Leben von Edward Jenner, Louis Pasteur, Paul Ehrlich*, Basle, Guten Schriften, 1974, 8vo., pp. 80, illus., S.Fr.8 (S.Fr. 5.50 paperback).

Professor Koelbing has produced a brief but excellent account of medicine's struggle against infectious diseases as typified by three of the well-known triumphs, vaccination, anti-rabies vaccine, and salvarsan. He bases his story on the lives of the three discoverers, Jenner, Pasteur and Ehrlich, respectively. Each biography is an accurate account of the man and appraisal of his work. They are attractively written and well documented, so that the book can be warmly recommended, especially to students, who by reading it will not only improve their knowledge of medical history, but also their facility with the German language.

HANS ZUPPINGER, *Albert Kölliker (1817–1905) und die mikroskopische Anatomie*, Zürich, Juris-Druck, 1974, 8vo., pp. 42, S.Fr.10.

The repute of a doctor or scientist is often measured by the recognition or lack of recognition of his name. But on this basis many insignificant individuals may be accorded high esteem because they are commemorated eponymously, whilst others of a much higher calibre remain in undeserved obscurity. Kölliker is an example of the latter. He is unknown to those not aware of nineteenth-century medical science, and yet his contribution to histology was immense. For fifty-five years (1847–1902) he worked at the University of Würzburg, during which time he wrote two classic books, which became standard texts of microscopical anatomy: *Mikroskopische Anatomie* 1850–54; *Handbuch der Gewebelehre der Menschen*, six editions 1852–89/96. His research, which was characterized by remarkable powers of observation, contributed importantly to the rapidly accumulating knowledge of cells and tissues and, in particular, he helped to establish the neurone theory. Kölliker was also an excellent teacher and in this way also disseminated his learning.

He deserves much greater recognition, and Dr. Zuppinger has done well to present a scholarly and well-written monograph on him, which evaluates his important role in the founding of histology.