

Book Reviews

enough attention to them and to the linguistic parallels available in the files of the Hamburg Hippokrateslexikon. If this were ever to be published, philological and terminological studies of the Hippocratic Corpus would be greatly forwarded, and much time and energy would be spared from the investigation of a narrow and partial range of synonyms.

MARY P. WINSOR, *Starfish, jellyfish, and the order of life. Issues in nineteenth-century science*, New Haven, Conn., and London, Yale University Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. [5 11], 228, illus., £10.50.

Dr. Winsor examines closely the investigation in the early nineteenth century of what appeared at first to be examples of simple animal life. At this time affinities between species were widely accepted, and the non-evolutionary view of lower invertebrates, such as the sea urchin, the starfish, and jellyfish (Cuvier's Radiates), is discussed at length. She is concerned with the work of, amongst others, Cuvier, C. G. Ehrenberg, Johannes Müller, T. H. Huxley, and of Louis and his son Alexander Agassiz whose collection of annotated reprints has provided this book with a considerable amount of new information. Of necessity, the text contains technical detail, but a glossary, the author's lively style, and the illustrations make it comprehensible and absorbing. In any case the history of any scientific topic makes demands on the reader, who must be expected to comprehend basic issues if he is to understand the evolution of a concept.

Little has been written on this aspect of nineteenth-century biology, yet the subject of invertebrate taxonomy as investigated in its first few decades was a significant feature of pre-Darwinian thought: natural classification revealed an orderly and unchanging world demonstrating pattern and design. Dr. Winsor, however, has researched only part of her topic as concerns both the internal or technical and intellectual, and the external or social dimensions. Nevertheless, she has opened up a fascinating and significant area, which both she and others can excavate further.

MICHAEL E. HOARE, *The tactless philosopher, Johann Reinhold Forster (1729–98)*, Melbourne, Hawthorn Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. xvi, x, 419, illus, Aus. \$15.95.

Dr. Hoare, a historian of science, has written the first full-length biography of Forster, whose varied activities test the versatility and breadth of anyone describing his life and work. He was a naturalist with Cook, an agriculturalist, ethnologist of the Antipodes and Antarctica, anthropologist, theologian, oriental philologist, linguist, geographer, geologist, and naturalist. He has, however, been overshadowed by his famous son, Georg, outstanding in eighteenth-century German scholarship, a revolutionary and a scientist, and has been actively neglected and even slandered. He seems to have had a difficult personality and, lacking tact, his relations with society were never secure. This should not, however, prevent an accurate appraisal of him and his work. The author devotes himself to this end, in particular dealing assiduously with Forster's later career in Germany that has been less closely examined. In all, he provides an excellent book and as Forster's interests have not been explored fully, there is room for further study of him by experts in the various fields of knowledge he cultivated.