

minion were weakening the federal structure. The secessionist movement in Nova Scotia was threatening its immediate collapse. The first two years of Canada's parliament was over-shadowed by this threat. Not until Nova Scotia was "pacified" could MacDonald and his cabinet turn full attention to the great problems facing the new nation.

Another matter which had to be settled was United States fishing rights in Canadian waters. MacDonald was the Canadian representative of a British Commission sent to Washington to replace an expired treaty. He used the utmost tact and careful diplomacy to mask his deep determination that Canada should not lose in big power bargaining. In all such dealings he was confronted by two attitudes: The indifference or resentment of a large section of British leadership to Canada's ambition to be a willing partner, not a subordinate; the contempt and greed of the American press and railway circles, both exerting great influence at Washington.

These are only some of the highlights of an unique political career, carefully and sympathetically outlined by Historian Creighton. It was a day of empire building and MacDonald was the man for the task.

Personal tragedy, financial problems, recurring months of exhausting illness made his tasks harder to fulfil. Yet, when he was rested, he maintained, even in his seventies, that jaunty air of youthfulness, that platform wit and easy charm of earlier years.

He once told a Toronto audience that "if John A.'s stomach gives in, then the Opposition will go in; but if his stomach holds out, the Opposition will stay out". Then he told them his best years were past. But a confident voice from the crowd shouted, "You'll never die, John A."

He died on June 6, 1891, when he was still prime minister. Except for a period of three years he was prime minister from 1867 to 1891, the longest tenure of office ever held by a leader of a Conservative party.

The second volume of the MacDonald biography, like the first, is an invaluable addition to Canadian History. W.K.

MAN IN A COLD ENVIRONMENT, by Alan C. Burton and Otto G. Edholm. The Macmillan Company of Canada Ltd.,

Toronto, Canada. Illustrated. Indexed. Pp. 273. \$5.

The work of Burton and Edholm summarizes the knowledge of the physiology of animals and man in a cold environment up to the year 1951. This book covers very thoroughly the efforts that were made during World War II by British, American, and Canadian scientists in the problem of the adaptation of animals and humans to survive in frigid temperatures.

The physiological principles involved are presented in a lucid and simple manner which makes the book very readable. This quality does not reduce the value of this book as an excellent reference source. The sections on resuscitation following generalized hypothermia will likely prove extremely valuable in the treatment of patients suffering from exposure. Much of this work pioneered the present usage of hypothermia in surgery.

The mechanisms of heat production in the body as well as the control of body heat are clearly outlined and illustrated. The problems encountered in the maintenance of body heat by various insulating materials are discussed. Unfortunately very little information is presented to the person trying to decide the proper clothing to wear for winter weather.

It is obviously not a book for the layman but should be of immense value to students of this specialized branch of physiology or to those actively engaged in man's continued fight against the elements.

(J. R. MacDougal, M.D.)

PILOTS OF THE PURPLE TWILIGHT, by Philip H. Godsell. The Ryerson Press, Toronto, Canada. Illustrated. Pp. 225. \$3.50.

"Pilots of the Purple Twilight" retells and consolidates the better known exploits of men who pioneered the aerial penetration of northern Canada between the two Great Wars. As Mr. Godsell points out, bush flying in this country really began during World War I, for the nucleus of men who survived training accidents and sorties over Flanders not only gained valuable flying experience, but also developed a love of the air that was powerful enough to override any security and comfort life after the Armistice may have offered, and