

of New Zealand's native birds, and maintaining an independent scientific correspondence with several of his father's colleagues.

When the Mantell Family collection was given to the Turnbull Library, Walter had already done some preliminary ordering; he had annotated letters, and gone through the journals crossing out passages which (when still decipherable) refer to the family's domestic troubles. The collection was known to, but not used by, Mantell's biographer Sidney Spokes,³ and in 1940 E. C. Curwen edited and published a greatly abridged version of Gideon Mantell's journal, typescripts of the four known manuscript journals being supplied by the then Turnbull Librarian, Johannes Andersen.⁴ The last entry in that volume is for 14 June 1852, and until now we have had to rely on Mantell's voluminous and intimate correspondence with Professor Benjamin Silliman of Yale University for information on the remaining six months of his life.

Given the history of the papers, it was perhaps not surprising to find, on closer examination of Reginald Neville Mantell's papers, that a volume assigned to, and in fact principally used by him, also contained the last six months of Gideon's journal. It is physically uniform with Gideon's other volumes, and it is evident that Reginald used its unused pages while at leisure in India to write up his own account of the weeks spent in London sorting and organising his father's estate, and considering what next to do with his own life; it thus constitutes volume five of Gideon's journal and volume eight of Reginald's.

Although some evaluation has been made of Gideon Mantell's papers,⁵ a fuller description of the nature of the whole Mantell Family collection—correspondence, manuscripts, books, drawings, and photographs relating to Gideon and his two sons—awaits completion. The international interest in Gideon Mantell justifies the publication here of the final months of his journal, though the entries in this section do not differ significantly in character from those in previous volumes. His ambitions have not lessened, he is as quick to take offence, yet his energy in continuing to practise medicine, to write, to visit friends and colleagues, and to undertake exhausting excursions despite increasingly incapacitating pain, continues to amaze.

The journal is transcribed without alteration or editorial comment; where words are unclear a question mark has been added in square brackets. The running titles, repeating the date and place (his home at Chester Square, Pimlico) have been omitted. The volume also includes a list of letters to and from his son Walter in New Zealand from 15 June to 21 October 1852, a list of American letters from 12 June 1852, a list of items in 'Box sent to Walter Feby. 17 by the Persia', and two letters tipped in: a copy of a letter to the