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## DOCTOR BY NATURE: JONATHAN COUCH: SURGEON OF POLPERRO



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Polperro Heritage Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Doctor By Nature: Jonathan Couch: Surgeon of Polperro, Jeremy Rowett Johns, Jonathan Couch (1789-1870), surgeon apothecary of Polperro, was one of the pioneering natural historians of his day, paving the way for others such as Darwin and Huxley to follow. His own county of Cornwall was every bit as much a place of discovery as the Galapagos Islands and his reputation is secured by his great works, notably his four-volume "Fishes of the British Islands" which remains a standard work of reference today. But his lively mind also turned to the migration of birds and the habits of bats; he wrote about fossils and flowing plants, sharks and shooting stars, crabs and carpenter bees, porpoises and potato disease. This account of his life and work, drawing on much previously unpublished material, tells the story of a remarkable man who, born in humble circumstances, rose to become one of the leading natural scientists of the 19th century. As a young man, he turned his back on a lucrative medical career in London, choosing instead to serve the people of his native village as their doctor for 60 years. A classical scholar, Methodist preacher, antiquarian and force behind road building projects, he was also a compassionate family man whose three marriages yielded 11 children and more than a fair share of grief.



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