

WHY THE EMPRESS WENT COOL ON NAPOLEON

AN amazing new medical theory may at last have solved the mystery of Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte's death.

The new diagnosis by an American expert discounts older theories that Napoleon died of stomach cancer or was poisoned with arsenic by his British jailers on St Helena.

Professor Robert Greenblatt, of the Medical College of Georgia, suggests the Emperor met an even more bizarre end. He believes he was turning into a woman.

The professor says that for the last 12 years of his life, Napoleon showed the symptoms of the Zollinger-Ellison syndrome, a hormonal imbalance caused by benign tumours growing in the endocrine glands.

Scornful

This, he says, would explain Napoleon's increasing weight, and his sleepiness, blackouts and headaches.

In the current British Journal of Sexual Medicine, Professor Greenblatt says that descriptions of the Emperor as yellow complexioned and corpulent, the Empress Josephine's scornful comparison of him with a castrato, and autopsy findings of feminine characteristics, all suggest the Zollinger-Ellison syndrome.

Physicians who witnessed the autopsy described his body as effeminate with 'a chest that many a woman would envy'.