

Let us hope with the author that this book will help "To promote interest in the wild life of the low veld . . . still many aspects about which little if anything is known", and also "To introduce the reader to some of the problems with which wild life conservationists are faced".

Dr. Bigalke refers to the concept of National Parks in other parts of the world, their formation, administration, and function; and, in so far as the Kruger Park is concerned, discusses freely and fully the problems of management, and they are many. Only recently has it been possible to commence statistical studies of wild life populations. The graceful impala constitutes some 75 per cent of the Kruger Park's stock. Of the many first-hand observations, one of the nicest is how an infuriated eagle owl put to flight a full-grown lioness which had wandered too close to its owlets. How very true it is to say of an African Game Park that the lions are free to roam at will, while it is the tourists who are confined! It is indeed heartening to learn that there are 125 private nature reserves in the Transvaal Province.

An unfortunate slip is the reference to "Ruangwa River Game Reserve in Tanganyika", where presumably the Luangwa River Game Reserve in Northern Rhodesia is intended.

The full-page illustrations—twenty-four in black and white and eight in colour—are superb, to try and differentiate between them would be invidious.

C. R. S. P.

SCIENCE AND THE VET. By LESLIE WOLFF. G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., London, 1962. 15s.

The title of this book is a misnomer, for only two of the nine chapters concern veterinary science. However, the remaining seven chapters about stock farming, the evolution and domestication of mammals and, finally, an account of endangered wild species, give a young reader a useful background knowledge of the interdependence of man and animals on this crowded planet.

It is precisely this kind of knowledge which the aspiring veterinary student, who is often a townsman, lacks. It was heartening to see that the author accords a place for the Veterinary Surgeon among the scientists concerned with the conservation of wildlife.

M. H. W.

LEECHES. By K. H. MANN. Pergamon Press, Ltd. 45s.

This is a well-produced volume on the biology of leeches. After a very full account on the medicinal leech and a survey of the different animals in the group, the author writes on nutrition, excretion, circulation, locomotion and reproduction, and there is a final chapter on the relationship of leeches with their environment. The book as a whole is not intended as a guide to the taxonomy of leeches, but there are useful appendices dealing with the systematics of freshwater, terrestrial and marine leeches. The appendix on marine leeches gives extensive lists of the fishes and other marine animals which are hosts to leeches. The whole volume should be of use and interest to those who like to delve in one of the more unusual groups of animals.

H. G. V.