

its mine of information some years ago when on a voyage to the home of the Blue Goose on Southampton Island, but those who only have the luck to see Arctic birds at the southern end of their migration would also be well advised to keep a copy.

N. R.

ANARE : AUSTRALIA'S ANTARCTIC OUTPOSTS. By PHILLIP LAW and JOHN BÉCHERVAISE. Melbourne (Oxford University Press). 45s.

This excellent and richly illustrated volume tells the tale of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions from 1947 to 1957. The work has been prepared by Dr. P. G. Law, the Director of the Antarctic Division, Department of External Affairs, who has been responsible almost throughout for these vigorous Australian activities, both as organizer and often as leader in the field, together with his senior colleague in Anare, J. M. Béchervaise. The volume is designed for an intelligent if not learned public. The earlier pages are prefatory and narrative, while the main body of the volume is taken up by a series of short sections each built around several highest quality photographs, some of which are reproduced in colour.

The sections are organized in chapters such as "Macquarie Island", "Seals", "Birds", "Science", etc.

The first part of the volume is a reference work for details of organization, itinerary and personnel; for the rest it is a high-grade picture-book. It is all done extremely well and attractively. There are some excellent seal and penguin photographs and enough explanation to provide assurance that Australia keeps well in mind her duties in biological conservation.

Those who have a proper pride in British Commonwealth Antarctic activity will recognize that, in proportion to her population, Australia acts with the greatest vigour. But they will be saddened too by the recognition that in these days all Australian effort is dependent on chartered Scandinavian vessels, a source of shipping which was essential too for the recent Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition. The British Commonwealth countries concerned have quite inadequate shipping for the maintenance of their position and responsibilities in and around Antarctica. In fact all five of the mutually recognizing sovereign powers in Antarctica, namely Australia, France, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom, have not a single ice-breaker between them. Without them and

therefore without the freedom of ice-infested seas, those sovereign nations drop behind their competitors in Antarctica. The United States and Russia both deploy ample powerful shipping in Antarctica and even Argentina has an ice-breaker which gives her the appearance of power, and the capability of exercising it, which is impossible for the legitimate nations in their own Antarctic waters.

But in matters of fauna preservation and conservation the British Commonwealth nations in Antarctica have been admirably forward, as witnessed by the renewed abundance of elephant seals at Macquarie Island and South Georgia, after the depredations of the last century.

G. C. L. B.

REPTILES ROUND THE WORLD. By CLIFFORD H. POPE.
Routledge and Kegan Paul. 21s.

Here is a juvenile version of the same author's *Reptile World* published last year. He does not say for what age children it is intended but one might assume from eleven to twelve years old; older children should have no difficulty in following the text of the first book. The author has certainly tried hard to explain the principles of his subject in simple terms, nevertheless one cannot help feeling that the chapter on nomenclature is out of place. Why should young children be given long strings of scientific names which they cannot possibly master and which would not help them if they could? The chapters on habits, some of which are very short, could have been expanded and some of the nomenclature and zoogeography left out.

There are no photographs in this book but Mrs. Tee-Van has drawn some delightful pictures to illustrate the author's writing. May one justifiably wonder whether two and a half symbolic men really help us to picture the size of a large monitor or whether five symbolic snakes and five symbolic crocodilians really demonstrate their relative abundance in the tropics? On the other hand, the drawings illustrating reptile behaviour do succeed and this method of illustration could be recommended to authors of popular works who may only have indifferent photographs at their disposal.

After these general comments one can only make trivial criticisms. I do not know whether a Pteranodon could hover and I would like to see a boa throw nine close coils around a