

the drawing of the Black-backed Jackal should be so unrepresentative as it tends to spoil what otherwise is a series of well-nigh perfect pictures. A relative scale with each drawing would have been helpful. One wonders why it was necessary to illustrate the Rock-Jumper (*Petrodromus*) which does not occur in Uganda.

Written mainly for the African people, the author loses no opportunity of emphasizing the importance and urgency of effective wild life conservation, at the same time soundly condemning the prevalent senseless destruction which results from ignorance and indifference. In simple style and not overburdened with technical detail, the book's aim is to provide a general guide to the mammals of Uganda, especially the more obvious so-called game animals; it is not intended to provide a complete list of the country's mammals. Nevertheless both the Giant Fruit Bat, *Hypsignathus monstrosus*, which seasonally is widely distributed in the Lake Victoria and western regions and which cannot be overlooked on account of its size and exasperating call, and the distinctive and well-known Short-snouted Elephant Shrew, *Nasilio brachyrhynchus*, of the Ankola and Masaka grasslands, might have been included. Further, for the student and others whom it is desired especially to interest, accuracy should have been scrupulously observed. The statement that *Chlorotalpa stuhlmanni* is the "only golden mole found in Uganda" ignores the fact that *Chlorotalpa fosteri* is found commonly on Mount Elgon. *Potamogale velox*, the Great Water Shrew, has never been recorded from the Ruwenzori Mountains, where it is the Lesser Water Shrew, *Micropotamogale ruwenzorii*, which occurs. The Uganda tree pangolin is *Manis tricuspis*, not *Unomans longicaudata*. Also, the genus of the Bunyono rabbit is *Poelagus*, not *Pronolagus* (which is a rock hare). The expert will notice other inaccuracies.

Also avoidable are spelling errors such as "Morisson-Scott" for Morrison-Scott; "*Rhinolphus*" for *Rhinolophus*; "*Tophazous*" for *Taphazous*; "*Poacilogale*" for *Poecilogale*; "bush-tailed" for brush-tailed, and "*sylvicutrix*" for *sylvicultrix* (but now replaced by *sylvicultor*).

Apart from these imperfections which inevitably detract from its value, one is full of praise for the endeavour to describe in readily readable language Uganda's wild mammals. A chapter is devoted to each order represented; there are also a graphic appeal for better and more imaginative wild life conservation, some entertaining folk-lore tales, and a valuable list of vernacular names. The book should serve its purpose as an introduction to the serious study of natural history.

C. R. S. P.

LET'S VISIT THE KRUGER PARK. By R. BIGALKE. Afrikaanse Pers-Boekhandel, Johannesburg and Capetown, 1962. Rands 5 (= 50s.).

This imposing, informative, but expensive publication (8½ in. by 11 in.) sets out to describe the wild life and more conspicuous flora of the Kruger National Park—some 7,340 square miles in extent, with a length of 250 miles from north to south. But it is not only written to attract the tourist, for the author stresses how imperative it is to decide now to preserve nature's priceless heritage, the wild life, which he has to admit is still threatened with extinction. What he writes must convince everyone but the bigot and extremist that no effort should be spared to ensure the survival of the Kruger Park and to perpetuate what it contains. Whether this can be successfully accomplished in view of the powerfully hostile elements at work only time will show.

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.