

part of the achievement. Mrs. Ann Wilton's delightful line-drawings of Malayan beasts, birds, and insects are excellent and some of them masterpieces: her pair of seladang, facing p. 95, is the first entirely satisfactory drawing of this beast I have seen.

E. O. S.

LIVING WITH REPTILES. By KATHLEEN PICKARD-SMITH. Nelson. 18s.

This account of the experiences of the author, over some dozen years, of keeping reptiles and amphibians, is one for the pet-keeper rather than the serious herpetologist. However, it is fair to say that the book contains much information—mostly gained from first-hand experience—which could be useful to amateurs and professionals alike.

The style is narrative which makes for easy reading, but in a book of this length one rather misses some degree of specialized paragraphs with appropriate headings. There is an index; but this is limited to species, which is a pity, especially as only scientific names are given. It is quite right and proper to have these, but the novice who is not familiar with scientific nomenclature may be confused and even put off by not being able to find any common or popular names. One error in the index strikes the eye: *Rana edulis* instead of *Tana esculenta*.

Having made these somewhat critical points it should be made quite clear that this is a book well worth having on one's shelves. Nearly all the information is founded on personal experience, and a great deal of common sense is shown in connection with the feeding and keeping of the many species dealt with. There are flashes of fun and humour which are often lacking in books on animals.

The illustrations are excellent and deserve special mention.

M. K.

THEY WENT TO BUSH. By W. B. COLLINS. Macgibbon and Kee, 25s.

The greater part of this book is a personal account of the author's life as a forest officer in Ghana and of the men with whom he worked. This will be of rather doubtful interest to the ordinary reader who will, however, not be worried by the odd inaccuracies which may annoy Mr. Collins' former colleagues. The final chapter, "Guarding the Game", is more important, and it merits attention, for Collins states plainly what some of us were forbidden to point out before World War II—that the game reserves were a farce and had never existed except on paper.

It is rather frightening to find that a former Governor admitted in writing that he had little or no information as to the game animals which were found (in the so-called reserves) or the extent to which they were being destroyed. The officers administering the districts in which the reserves were situated could have told him very quickly!

The game has disappeared for ever from most of the savannah woodland that covers the northern two thirds of Ghana and it is only within the past few years that the first sizeable game reserve has been effectively established, and it is doubtful whether it can ever become a major tourist attraction.