

the buffalo's throat to be slit in the midst of the fight, or being deliberately estranged and yet remaining a link, or introducing her cubs to mankind and passing on so much of her trust. Countless people have fostered young wild animals less successfully. They at least should have an inkling of the outstanding blend of devotion and affection which enabled the Elsa story, the book, the film, the legend, to become a part of history.

ANTHONY SMITH.

A Continent for Science: The Antarctic Adventure, by **Richard S. Lewis**. Secker & Warburg, 48s.

Of all the continents Antarctica is much the poorest in living creatures; it has also the most indestructible and inhospitable landscape, and the smallest and most disciplined human population. Conservationists, therefore, have not been much concerned with it except for certain fringing areas used by marine-based colonies of seals and of birds, especially penguins, which have long been a familiar symbol of the Antarctic. Richard Lewis, an American science writer, has produced in this book of high-quality journalism an excellent, well-informed and thoughtful account of the present state of knowledge resulting from the immense recent research effort lavished on that continent. Whether the priority accorded to this vast international research expenditure has been justified, and how much might have been done with funds of this magnitude on areas of more direct interest to more people are matters of opinion on which there has been surprisingly little discussion, perhaps because nearly everyone well informed about the programme has some personal interest in its continuance, and because the real costs tend to be wrapped up with military budgets. In any case it is an impressive and well-managed enterprise, and other natural scientists have commented that a high proportion of the truly experimental research is biological, even though biology is a very junior partner here.

Unfortunately in terms of conservation this book is almost a dead loss. References to the history of sealing and whaling are brief and superficial, and only the foreword by Dr T. O. Jones of the US National Science Foundation contains in a couple of short sentences a reference to the recent Agreed Measures on Conservation adopted by the twelve Antarctic powers in pursuance of the Antarctic Treaty of 1961.* As Dr Jones justly says: "They are unusual because this may be the first time in history that man has ever seriously attempted any steps in conservation before it is too late." No doubt the book was written before these measures were promulgated, but their omission is regrettable, since they are of intrinsic interest to many readers although few yet know about them. Moreover, they work.

E. M. NICHOLSON.

* See ORYX, April, 1966.

The Appalachians, by **Maurice Brooks**. Houghton Mifflin, \$6.95.

To the European naturalist visiting them for the first time the smooth rounded appearance of the Appalachians may come as something of a surprise, for the name has suggested to him a range of snow-covered peaks. But they are none the less interesting for being unexpectedly accessible, and include such famous sites as Hawk Mountain, where bird watchers gather in the autumn from far afield to see the remarkable southward migration of raptors. This fine survey by the Professor of Wildlife Management at West Virginia University is the first in a new series, "The Naturalists' America", edited by Roger Tory Peterson of the United States and Jack Livingston of Canada, which is intended to parallel the "New Naturalist" in Britain.