hormones from the suprarenal or adrenal glands, quite profound and often long-standing illness can ensue. Diseases due to congenital or genetic defects and, of course, senility are also brought more sharply into view. Thus with man's conquest of certain health problems others remain still to be solved.

It would be churlish to carp at the minor details of this book for Mr. Fiennes has done what few people of his standing would care to attempt and at the same time produced a most stimulating and readable work. But one feels that sometimes the really acute problems have not been grasped sufficiently firmly so that for the general reader they appear more interesting than serious.

K. M. BACKHOUSE

The Universe, by **David Bergamini. The Earth,** by **Arthur Beiser. Evolution,** by **Ruth Moore.** Life Nature Library, Time-Life International, 32*s.* 6*d.* each.

David Bergamini recalls the historical steps of man's extraordinary knowledge of the universe, from the observations of the Chinese, who recorded eclipses in 4000 B.C., to the radio telescopes of to-day, which can tell us of galaxies millions of light years away, and gives a fascinating account of our own galaxy and the comets and meteorites which accompany our journey through space.

Dr. Beiser discusses three theories of the formation of continents, considers the earth's weather, hurricanes and other natural phenomena, and in the final chapter suggests that, millions of years before the world ends in some celestial disaster, man must learn to manage it better, lest he manage his own premature extinction.

Ruth Moore, one of America's foremost writers of popular science, starts historically with Thales, Aristotle, Lamarck and de Buffon, then turns to Darwin. Discussing heredity she gives clear and simple explanations for the unscientific reader of Mendel's experiments and of genes, chromosomes and the nucleic acids. In a section devoted to fossil remains of man's early relations, she should have mentioned that, though the importance of Dr. Leakey's fine work in the Olduvai gorge is universally recognised, the conclusions he draws are the subject of considerable scientific dispute.

Like previous volumes all these three are beautifully illustrated and are strongly recommended.

C. L. BOYLE

Kiki the Mousebird, by **Lyn and Hubert Gutteridge.** Collins, 21*s.*

The Gutteridges have made their home on St. Lucia estuary in South Africa into a bird sanctuary where Mrs. Gutteridge nurses any injured or orphaned birds, returning them to the wild as soon as they are fit. This is the story of one that refused to go. Young birds and mammals, reared by humans, transfer to them the emotions, whatever they are—and even to the most convinced behaviourists they look like love—that they have felt for their natural parents. Nearly all lose this attitude as soon as they can fend for themselves, but there are exceptions, and Kiki is one. Although quite free, and with birds of his own species frequenting the garden, he remains firmly attached to his adopted parent, exhibiting at time a frantic jealousy of her husband and other birds.

This is a simple story, perhaps too simple for some readers, but this kind of experience has an age-old appeal. One of the remarkable things is the response of the Zulus to Mrs Gutteridge's activities. Kiki came to her through

an elderly relation of one of her house-boys, who had told his family that they must bring any lost or injured bird they found to her. Perhaps a practical demonstration such as hers of the value placed on these small lives may do more to convince simple people of the merits of conservation than a mountain of propaganda.

DIANA SPEARMAN

Whaler's Eye, by **Christopher Ash.** Allen and Unwin, 32s.

As chief chemist on board the factory ship *Balaena*, the author has travelled south nearly every year since 1944, so he writes with authority about the whaling industry, which seems to be intent on destroying itself. In this glimpse into the fascinating world of the whaler, his deep concern with the fortunes of the industry, and knowledge of its operations, enable him to bring every aspect vividly to the reader, guiding him through the maze of pipes below decks on the factory, or across the slippery decks to show the processes which start with the magnificent whale and end in the clear oil, so valuable that millions are spent harvesting it. His understanding of both sides of the controversy over the morals of whaling is revealed in his imaginary dialogues. This is the most readable book on whaling for many years, and all who love the sea, whether whale men or not, will enjoy it.

ARTHUR BOURNE

DEATHS AMONG CAPTURED ANIMALS

A MEMBER of the FPS in Malaya, Mr. W. P. Macveigh, has sent us his comments on the mortality figures among wild animals and birds after capture in Kenya quoted by Major Ian Grimwood at the Symposium on " Zoos and Conservation " reported in the August issue of ORYX, page 215 :

I have a small collection of mammals and birds in my grounds here—some of the latter have been bred in the aviaries and I have from time to time exported abroad. In my view high mortality, particularly in birds, is due to the following basic causes :—

(*a*) Zoos and private collectors are in many cases too intent on competitive prices.

(*b*) As a result dealers in the U.S. and Europe (especially the Continent) buy from " cheap " suppliers accepting a high mortality rate in view of the low cost.

(*c*) In Malaysia those exporters quoting " cheap " prices are for that very reason persons with little knowledge or interest in their stock—their export packing is low grade to maintain low freight (air) for the benefit of their consignees.

However, if one supplies only healthy specimens in correct packing, such as I have devised myself (not as recommended by the Airways) and in addition sees that all specimens are maintained in aviaries and conditioned to captivity before despatch by air, then mortality can be reduced to nil and I have never lost a bird in transit ; I only supply selected pairs to private aviculturists or zoos, not in quantity to overseas dealers.

I would guess that the lovebirds referred to by Major Grimwood had been caged together and mortality was due to fighting and trampling. In Malaya we have a small psittacine *Loriculus galgalus* with characteristics similar to lovebirds. If kept in roomy cages or aviaries (clean), deaths from fighting are not to be feared—however, when shipping by air I provide *each* specimen with a separate compartment as otherwise high mortality may be expected.