

A REPORT ON KENYA'S WILD-LIFE RESOURCES AND THE NATIONAL PARKS, November, 1953–July, 1954. By GEORGE A. PETRIDES, Associate Professor of Wild-life Management and Zoology, Michigan State College, U.S.A. Published in Nairobi, 1955, by the Trustees of the Royal National Parks of Kenya.

This thirty-page pamphlet can be highly recommended to all who have at heart the welfare of nature's wonderful legacy to mankind, a legacy which, through authority's indifference or hostility and man's cupidity, is everywhere a dwindling asset. The despicable story of game extermination is an old one the whole world over. There is much here which has been frequently said before, but which cannot be said too often and it is emphasized that wild life should be regarded as the most priceless heritage with which East Africa is endowed. Kenya's game aggregations rank as among the most remarkable to be found anywhere in the world and their value to the tourist trade is inestimable, though this is not fully appreciated and its potential as a resource of considerable income-producing value is usually overlooked. It is claimed in this report that improper land use is mainly responsible for the diminution of Kenya's game and that protection of game *habitats* should be the primary consideration; while the mere passage of laws limiting hunting cannot be regarded as a concomitant to active preservation. As the important game areas in Kenya are also tribal grazing grounds, heavy overgrazing is the most important factor currently affecting game abundance. The last half dozen pages are devoted to *A Review of Masai Resources*, by W. P. Keller (of Konza, Kenya), which constitutes a valuable analysis of the Masai game relationship and suggests how this relationship can be improved to their mutual benefit. Game could be reckoned, if not the most important, at least the most attractive resource of the Masai Reserve, and the game population in this reserve is, contrary to general belief, not at a disproportionately high level—no more than 20 per cent of cattle numbers, in those areas in which game and stock are in the greatest conflict. An interesting chart of plant succession in Nairobi National Park grasslands is of importance in connection with the problems arising from the grazing activities of plains, game and stock.

George Petrides contends that Kenya's present national parks system fails to preserve adequately the Colony's principal scenic and game areas, and he stresses that to set aside as national parks only areas otherwise useless—which is an unfortunate tendency—cannot be regarded as a satisfactory policy, especially as the other reserved areas, called national reserves,

enjoy security of tenure only for so long as they are not otherwise needed. He indicates that national parks have an international as well as a national value.

A most important point which he emphasizes, as does W. P. Keller, is that of wild-life management, of which the knowledge is negligible. Not only national parks' organizations, but game departments too, urgently require the services of qualified ecologists. There are none yet in East Africa as the funds necessary have never been provided, but without their services and advice there can be no lasting progress in the management of national parks.

C. R. S. P.

Note.—As long as the small stock of the above report lasts, members will be sent a copy free of charge on application to the Secretary, Fauna Preservation Society.

THE GOOD BEASTS. By ANNE FREELING. Hutchinson. 8s. 6d.

Anne Freeling is a member of the Third Order of St. Francis. Her humanity and tolerance, as well as her knowledge and love of animals, are apparent in every page of this delightful book. This does not, in any way, detract from its merits as a children's story. Because it is about animals, and beautifully illustrated by Sylvia Green, it will appeal to almost all children from ten years old upwards. And it is everything a good children's book should be—a well told and exciting story about "real" children, with a "moral" in the very best sense of the word.

The book makes a plea for tolerance—religious, racial and social—and a deeper sense of responsibility towards the animal world. I do not think that any child reading it can fail to be moved and inspired, as well as interested in the story and the information it gives about wild animals in captivity and the care of pets. I hope that Miss Freeling will give us more books like this, to help us with our task of teaching tolerance and a sense of moral responsibility to our children, in a world so often devoid of both.

M. J. D.

THE ART OF SCIENCE. By L. C. BEADLE, M.A. (Cantab).
Geoffrey Cumberlege. Oxford Univ. Press. 3s. 6d.

This is an inaugural address delivered at Makerere University College of East Africa, Kampala, Uganda, by its author on taking up the Professorship of Zoology. It is largely historical in approach and emphasizes the fact that the inclusion of a subject such as natural history in the curriculum of a university