

Nobody I asked in India knew where this liquid came from and I never tried to find out for myself by dissection. It is far too copious for spittle, being often a splash rather than a spray, yet, if there is some "mysterious reservoir", it must be known to anatomists. The views of readers of *Oryx* on this point would be valuable.

Those not specially interested in evolution may think of skipping "Elephants as Fossils" until they see Charles Knight's illustrations of mammoths and mastodons and the delightful reconstructions of earlier types by Maurice Wilson: his etching of *Ananthus* on p. 118 in particular will appeal to any Indian "elephant-fancier" as a beautifully proportioned "kumeria".

I have enjoyed this book very much and learnt much from it. It is well indexed, very thoroughly referenced and the bibliography is the most complete list of elephant books that I have seen.

E. O. S.

NATURE PROTECTION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. Edited by
GEORGE DENNLER DE LA TOUR.

This work is published in memory of Dr. Hugo Salomon, President of the Argentine National Commission for the Protection of the Fauna of South America, whose name will be well known to members of the Fauna Preservation Society. They will remember that, in 1945 and 1947, following Dr. Salomon's visits to Asia and Africa, the Society published his observations as "Occasional Papers", and they will have read with sadness the notification in *Oryx* of his death.

The present book takes the form of articles in either French, Spanish, German or English by many authors. Three are from the writings of Dr. Salomon himself; other familiar names appear including Professor Charles Bernard, Honorary President of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director of the U.S.A. National Park Service, and Dr. Théodore Monod, Directeur de l'Institut Français d'Afrique Noire. But the bulk of the writing is by Dr. Dennler de La Tour himself, willingly and diligently undertaken in memory of his old friend and collaborator.

In spite of this book's title there are considerable geographical gaps. Europe has to make do with Switzerland and the Carmargue, Asia with India and Indonesia; Australia gets no article at all, though New Zealand has four. But the difficulties in compiling such a volume must have been immense and the

paucity of information about some continents finds compensation in the many articles on Africa, mostly in German, and in those on South America, mostly in Spanish—what continent could be more appropriate in a memorial to Dr. Salomon?

Very many beautiful photographs are reproduced but the quality of the paper does not do them justice. Expense must have been the limiting factor and that also is, I suppose, the reason for the paper cover.

C. L. B.

Note.—The above book, price £4, may be obtained from the following: Asociación Cultural Nature, Pasaje Seaver 1656, Buenos Aires, Argentine; I.S. Booksellers, Church Square, Cape Town, S. Africa; John Meinert (Pty.), Ltd., Windhoek, S.W. Africa.

ANIMAL FRIENDS AND FOES. By OSMOND P. BRELAND. Faber and Faber. 16s.

Do you want to know what is the most bloodthirsty animal? (Can this question, in fact, be answered?) What crustacean is the most important source of human food? Whether bees die after stinging? If you do, this is the book for you. Professor Breland of the University of Texas has gathered together, under the title *Animal Friends and Foes*, an amazing collection of snippets of information about the animal kingdom, loosely based on a plan of answering the question—which animals are foes, and which friends, to man. Professor Breland would, I think, class as foes all those creatures which kill, harm or irritate man, or which eat or destroy any of his sources of food. And as friends those which do not do these things, prey upon those that do or are themselves sources of food. In this book he does not consider the question any more widely than this though I do detect, here and there, a plea for at least conservative conservation and an understanding of ecology on the part of those who would seek to eradicate or preserve. For the most part this book is a mine of information without in any sense being encyclopaedic or useful in any extensive way as a book of reference. Professor Breland has an easy style; one might almost say he “writes down” too much. In a book which is obviously intended to be serious and informative as well as entertaining it is a pity there are so few references, so few authorities and sources cited and such a paucity of scientific names. The pictures are competent but facetious—they have the same effect on me as does strident and irrelevant music in a nature film.

M. D.