

Emeritus Professor of Forestry at the University of Göttingen and many of the examples come from his own field. Inevitably most concern invertebrates, but mammals find many mentions, including even a few species of larger game.

This should become a standard work in many fields, especially for German-speaking scientists who have been without a major treatise on population dynamics, whereas the past 15 years have produced a series of major volumes in English, as is borne out by the high proportion of British and American references in the 1500 or so citations.

GEORGE CANSDALE

Flora Europaea. Volume II, Rosaceae to Umbelliferae edited by **T. G. Tutin** and others. Cambridge University Press. £7 7s.

Plants of the World. Volume III, The Lower Plants by **K. B. Boedijn**. Thames & Hudson, £6 6s.

Both these books are continuations of works whose earlier volumes have already been reviewed in *ORYX*, (April 1965 and September 1968 respectively), and both maintain the high standards set by the opening volumes. *Flora Europaea* is a co-operative enterprise filling a gap that has long yawned in scientific literature. The driving force is a group of British botanists, T. G. Tutin, V. H. Heywood, N. A. Burges, D. M. Moore, D. H. Valentine, S. M. Walters and D. A. Webb, assisted by P. W. Ball, A. O. Chater and I. K. Ferguson, sponsored by the Linnean Society of London and grant-aided by the Science Research Council. They are aided by regional advisers from all over Europe, so that the work is very much a pan-European enterprise. It consists of brief but adequate descriptions of every European species of wild flowering plant, together with some widely cultivated and commonly naturalised species, such as, in the present

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volume, *Kerria japonica* and *Crataegus crus-galli*, and dichotomous keys to aid in identification. It has immediately become, and will obviously for many years remain, the standard work.

Boedijn's book is of a very different character. An introduction to the varied groups of non-flowering plants, it is valuable in itself and immensely enhanced by a fine set of illustrations both in colour and black-and-white. Beautiful though many flowering plants are, the lower plants as a group have no fear of comparison when such magnificent species as the fungi *Calocera viscosa* or *Anthurus muellerianus* or the lichen *Cladonia coccifera* are concerned. The plants are divided into two main groups, unicellular – the bacteria and blue-green algae – and multicellular – the rest of the algae, slime moulds, fungi, lichens, mosses, liverworts, and ferns and fern allies. As with the two previous volumes, some notes on British distribution have been added to enhance the appeal of the book for British readers, although some of these, in the ferns and their allies at least, are not 100 per cent accurate. Nevertheless, the net result is a very valuable work of reference which is also worthy to lie on the coffee-table.

RICHARD FITTER

Born in the Zoo by **Heini Hediger and Jurg Klages**. Collins, 55s.

'Most wild animals in captivity are sterile. The reason is not known, but it does show the profound effects of captivity', wrote Charles B. Penrose in 1932. The pictures in this superb collection of photographs handsomely give the lie to this gloomy dictum and show how far zoo management has advanced. Today the criterion of a good zoo is one where the animals breed. The informative captions to the pictures and an introduction come from the knowledgeable pen of the Director of the Zürich Zoological Gardens, who sees a good zoo as a valuable aid to nature conservation – he said this in 1931 when it was not a truism. Zoo animals that are happy and intelligently cared for are, as he says, 'the best form of propaganda'.

Wild Mammals of Hong Kong by **Patricia Marshall**. OUP, 10s. 6d.

Each of 22 mammals is allowed two pages in this attractively produced, useful and factual book: a black and white photograph (sometimes two) on the left-hand page, with opposite a line drawing of the animal in its typical habitat and the text (in large clear type) succinctly covering name, colour, description, habits, food, enemies, occurrence, size and protection status. All 22 enjoy some protection, and for 11 it is complete. The book concludes with a clear and simple explanation of why Hong Kong should conserve her predators. For its price the book is quite incredibly good value.

Extinct and Vanishing Birds of the World by **James C. Greenway, Jr.** Second Revised Edition. Constable, 33s. 6d.

It is good to have a new cheap edition of Greenway's classic work, but the revision is not very extensive, and since the publication of IUCN's Red Data Book on Birds, which is right up to date, the main value of this book is in the detailed historical information it contains.

Introducing some of the more bizarre creatures to the young is the purpose of *Earth's Bug-eyed Monsters* with well-written accounts (nothing like as sensational as the title), by Alice L. Hopf (Norton, \$4.50), of the Komodo dragon, octopus, trap-door spider, giraffe, chameleon, Portuguese man o'war, and a dozen more, each one illustrated with a good photograph.