

and play, largely as a summer diversion, and later to travel widely, first by stagecoach and canal, later by elegant steamboats and by rail. The second half of the century was a less idyllic, more factually inquisitive period. A crescendo of impact upon resources from expanding industry and agriculture caused growing concern, culminating in 1864 by the publication of *Man and Nature*, by George P. Marsh. This book, in later editions entitled *The Earth as Modified by Human Action*, was the first realization of "the basic importance of conservation and the nature of its extraordinary and complex pattern".

One of the chief values of *Nature and the American* is that the book places in historical perspective much of contemporary American activity in conservation, especially that dealing with parks and forests. One might wish for a parallel treatment of American agricultural history as it led to modern soil conservation and watershed management to round out the picture, but that story was outside the author's purview. He does recognize, however, that man's interpretation of nature during the first two centuries of American history was quite a different matter from what it has become since, and in the final chapters he briefly treats present societal impacts upon American resources as a whole. Public opinion is now on the side of the conservationists, the author concludes, and conservation is the great need of our time—something for which mankind must put up "a fight which can be waged in a spirit of optimism".

The book is well illustrated, both by twenty-six vignettes and sixty-four full-page plates of the changing American scene, most of them paintings and line drawings antedating the photographic era. There is also a coloured frontispiece—a reproduction of Winslow Homer's "Ascent of Mount Washington". The art work was made possible by a grant from Resources for the Future. The author, Curator of Research at the Art Institute of Chicago, with an avid interest in nature, was uniquely prepared to choose the illustrations and write the text. Each of the twelve chapters is documented by numerous references; there is a ten-page bibliography and an index.

E. H. G.

THE TRAVELS OF WILLIAM BARTRAM. Naturalist's Edition edited by FRANCIS HARPER, 1958. Yale University Press. \$8.50c. London: Oxford University Press. £3 8s.

In the middle of the eighteenth century John Bartram, of Philadelphia, founded a botanical garden, from which many

North American plants first came to Europe. William Bartram, author of the present book, was John's son, reared in a home devoted to pioneer botany. He became a good botanist himself, and also a good general naturalist and an artist of no mean skill. Reproductions of his natural history studies attractively illustrate this book.

William, however, had little talent for business, in which he failed. Then, fortunately for him and us, he found a patron in a Dr. John Fothergill, who provided a pension of £50 a year, plus extra expenses, to enable him to go on the travels here described. They were made through North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida between 1773 and 1777. The book, based partly on journals and partly on memory, was published about 1791. At some minor points Bartram's memory erred, and here the editor corrects him from his contemporary correspondence with Fothergill.

An early reviewer of the book found fault with Bartram's style. So do we. Paragraphs that do little more than list Linnæan names of trees, long apostrophes to the wisdom of the Almighty and a preference for saying that a plain had "an arenaceous surface", instead of calling it "sandy", do not make a book readable. The mammalogist will find Bartram rather disappointing; the anthropologist may hesitate, with some reason, to trust his praises of Indian virtue. The ornithologist will get a great deal more out of him, however; and for the botanist he is a gold mine of original observations. Nor is his style always bad. When he forgets to try to be impressive—and the effort was more than he could keep up all the time—he writes quite simply and readably. He hardly ranks as an explorer in the lands where he travelled. But the country was still primitive, and lovers of travels will enjoy his description of it.

It would be hard to overpraise Mr. Harper's editing. He leaves the pages clear of footnotes. Instead, he provides, first, a ninety-nine-page commentary with page references to the preceding text; and, second, an annotated index covering 240 pages. The latter, a most ingenious device deserving widespread imitation among editors, combines the explanations commonly put in footnotes with the page references of an ordinary index. Mr. Harper's identifications of places, plants, beasts and birds are meticulously thorough.

R. G.