

not made to converse in human words and the subject is in no sense treated too anthropomorphically.

The book is charmingly and sensitively written and illustrated. Though in no way comparable, it might perhaps do for a younger child what *Tarka* could do for an older—introduce him to the large world of nature, the small world of an individual animal's life and the idea of man as the destroyer and avenger. A sensitive child might find the description of the chase too distressing although the book, unlike *Tarka*, ends happily, unless the reader asks himself the question, "and what about the next hunt?"

M. D.

## SHORTER NOTICES

BIRDS OF THE KRUGER AND OTHER NATIONAL PARKS. Vol. I. Size 8½ in. by 12½ in. 28 pp. 5s. From The Director, National Parks Board of Trustees, P.O. Box 787, Pretoria, South Africa.

This is the first of a series of books which will help visitors to identify the birds they see in the national parks and tell them something about their habits. Sixty-five species, among them herons, birds of prey, ducks and waders, are briefly described and beautifully illustrated. The book, though paper covered, is excellently got up. It is written both in Afrikaans and English.

SURVEY ON THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS. By Dr. IRENÄUS EIBL-EIBESFELDT. U.N.E.S.C.O. 3s. 6d., \$0.75. Postage—Great Britain, 5d.; Abroad, 3d. From H.M. Stationery Office, P.O. Box 569, London, S.E. 1, and all other national distributors of U.N.E.S.C.O. publications.

This is the report on the biological survey of the Galapagos Islands carried out last year jointly by U.N.E.S.C.O. and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. The islands with their endemic fauna, reptiles, birds and mammals are clearly described. The threat to the wonderful species which so excited Darwin—the marine iguanas, the giant tortoises, the flightless cormorants, the finches and very many others are considered. There are sections on the problems of wild life conservation on the islands and how they can be solved. The proposed Darwin Memorial Station for scientific study and active conservation is discussed in some detail. There are clear simple maps and sixty good illustrations.

This is an excellent piece of work on which all concerned are to be congratulated.