

Among Animals of Africa, by Bernhard Grzimek. Collins, £2.50.

Mammals of East Africa, by C.A.W. Guggisberg. Sagra, Nairobi, EA shs. 15.00.

What Grzimek writes is, as always, factual, thorough, intensely interesting and valuable. Beautifully illustrated in colour, this is an enthralling and enjoyable book. Dealing with a medley of creatures, their habits and habitat; he also describes in detail the complex anatomy of some of his subjects. Research to ensure more effective wildlife conservation is combined with an experiment to populate a lake island with certain endangered species and the bizarre use of inflated dummies to test the reaction of their wild counterparts. Fascinating are the chapters devoted to gorillas, and especially the account of an orphan brought up like a human baby through adolescence to boisterous maturity. One learns that in 1953 there were 56 gorillas in captivity outside Africa; 14 years later in 1967 this figure had risen to 302 lowland and 12 of the mountain race, indicating how important and urgent is their adequate protection. The practical value of an amphibious motor vehicle – the Amphicar – to counter crocodile poaching, generously and jointly presented by Grzimek and Aubrey Buxton to the Uganda National Parks, is graphically demonstrated, and he describes his aeroplane's unfortunate forced landing in the Sudan, after unintentionally straying across the border, which could have had dire results; a happy ending was only achieved after an eventful journey as a prisoner to Khartoum. In a work of such scope and so comprehensive, inaccuracies, mainly minor, certainly occur, but the claim that Uganda's Murchison Falls National Park is 12,000 (in fact only 1200) square miles 'one of the largest in Africa', should have been avoided.

Dr Guggisberg is a well-known authority and his Sagra Safari Guide No. 1 is a useful field guide to East African ungulates, carnivores and primates. The numerous photographs are excellent, and the drawings, in black and white or in colour, though scarcely to be commended, suffice for identification. The notes on distribution, habits and characteristics are concise and valuable.

C. R. S. PITMAN

Jebels by Moonlight, by Charles Sweeney. Chatto & Windus, £1.75.

This is a lively account of the author's first tour of duty as an entomologist in the Nuba Mountains some twenty years ago. The jebels, whose fauna and peoples he describes with such an appreciative and observant eye, consist of a series of ranges of large granite outcrops in the Acacia-tall-grass region of the Sudan. Because the soils in the valleys and plains between them are often of dark cracking clay, which is almost impassable during the rains, Charles Sweeney was isolated for several months of the year. He cannot have been idle, for, in addition to his official duties and research, he built up quite a respectable zoo at his headquarters in Kadugli, and he describes the antics of its inhabitants and the tribulations resulting especially from those of Gorab, a pied crow, and Chita, a baboon. (The Arabic *sheeta* actually means a chimpanzee; *gerit* is baboon).

A keen collector of wild animals, he was stung by scorpions and bees and bitten by *surret* flies (Tabanidae) – the last, he suggests, may have been the main reason why southern Kordofan was never occupied by