

This combination of laboratory investigation with field observation is natural history at its best.

The book is well illustrated with splendid photographs in both colour and black and white as well as by many clear, helpful diagrams.

JOHN CLEGG

**Man and Environment, by Robert Arvill. Penguin Books, 8s. 6d.**

This book sets out to survey and evaluate the impact of man and modern technology on the varied components of our physical and biological environment, of which wildlife is treated as an integral component. Although primarily concerned with Britain, extensive use is made of experience from other parts of the world. The first part is concerned with a survey of the country's environmental resources and an appraisal of the impact of current and future expanding and competing demands. By bringing together an impressive amount of scattered and often inaccessible information, the author has achieved a remarkably comprehensive survey that will be indispensable to all concerned with any aspect of land use and conservation in Britain. In the latter half of the book, he sets out his views on the steps necessary to achieve continuous improvement in the quality of the environment. In many ways, this is the most interesting part. In his view, the key lies in the realistic long-term strategic planning of resources backed by a comprehensive educative programme designed to produce a climate of opinion prepared to accept the implications inherent in this kind of policy. The inadequacies of the present planning system are analysed and proposals to reform the appropriate aspects of central and local government are put forward.

Throughout, the author displays an encyclopaedic knowledge in the spheres of planning, administration and legislation, but one suspects that he is less at home when dealing with the ecological aspects of land use planning and wildlife conservation. This book is essential reading for conservationists, planners, educationalists and all concerned in any way with influencing or fashioning the environment of tomorrow.

D. T. STREETER

**Tropical Pastures, edited by W. Davies and C. L. Skidmore. Faber, 50s.**

The editors of this book, one a former director of the Grassland Research Institute, Hurley, the other the Director of the Commonwealth Bureau of Pastures and Field Crops, also of Hurley, have written the first and last of its thirteen chapters – 'Problems of Pasture Improvements' and 'Reflections and the Future' respectively. Each of the remaining eleven is also by a specialist, experienced in some aspect of tropical grassland management or research; two are by veterinarians. With such a sweeping title it is understandable that there should be some gaps, the most notable of these being the lack of emphasis on arid and semi-arid tropics; over half of the authors had most of their experience in the humid tropics.

In a brief mention of the tsetse fly good hope is held out for chemo-therapy as a way of allowing cattle to colonise fly-infested land, but the issues of deciding whether or not to clear land of tsetse, the failures of past schemes and the relation of overgrazing to the spread of tsetse in certain semi-arid areas are not discussed.

Looking to the future, the authors have not, surprisingly, predicted more intensive methodology for pasture production with improved use of legumes and fertilisers. There is a plea for biologists and economists to work as a team, but no mention of sociologists although in many regions social factors are easily as