

REVIEWS

ON BEHALF OF THE HUNTED. By LYLE H. KINGSTON.

C. C. Nelson Publishing Co., Appleton, Wisconsin. \$3.

Reading this book I wondered at first whether it really was, as it claimed to be, a plea by a sportsman for reasoned wild life protection. Perhaps it was a very subtle attack on all sport. But I am sure that Mr. Kingston writes sincerely as a sportsman and that he faithfully gives his view of sport in his own country. Which makes it all the worse, for this is his story: Fishing on the "put and take" principle, in which the greatest skill consists in guessing where the truck from the fish hatchery has last stopped to stock the river with fish large enough to be legally taken: Training tame hatchery fish by electric shocks, to dash for cover when a human appears upon the bank: Guaranteed pheasant shooting; you telephone the pheasant farm in advance, saying how many birds you want to shoot at, and just that number are released for you: Wildfowlers who regard a wounded duck, though lost, as better than a miss—it shows some marksmanship at least: Deer hunting which is just a wild scramble for meat and can last only during the first few days of the official open season.

Now this may sound like caricature but I do not think I have misrepresented the author's descriptions of sport in America.

Even more disquieting is his description of wild life conservation. It is really little more than somehow or other providing as many fish, birds and mammals as possible to kill? Yes, says Mr. Kingston and it is so because the cost of protecting wild life is borne by taxes on sport. He who pays the piper calls the tune; let the cost be widely borne and other considerations will count also. A good point this which could be reinforced by asking who will pay for protection if the numbers of the hunted decline and revenue from sport falls off.

In the broader field of nature conservation, Mr. Kingston tells of draining millions of acres of the best duck nesting and duck wintering country to grow crops, and the corollary of great reductions in bag limits. All this is accompanied by huge surpluses of agricultural produce, with which no American government knows how to deal.

Mr. Kingston's suggestions for curing these evils are worth reading and his book, which contains much besides protests, is worth careful attention. The general effect is as disturbing as no doubt he intends it shall be.

C. L. B.