

Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine, edited by **Murray Fowler** W.B. Saunders, Philadelphia, £41.75.

It is inevitable for a book of this size, scope and quality that a large number of authors have been involved in its production. This has ensured that the subject matter has been well researched, sifted and summarised. Dr Fowler and his co-editors are to be congratulated on its compilation, which has been some five years in the making. Although this branch of veterinary science is a fairly young one, it is remarkable how far it has come in the last 15 years, and the book reflects these advances and the degree to which other applied biologists have contributed to the mass of useful data now available.

Following brief introductory chapters on basic husbandry and preventive medicine, the book is divided into three major sections: reptiles with amphibia, birds, and mammals. The birds and mammals chapters each deal with a family or group of families, and the same format is followed in each one, so that, for example, biological data, such as body weights and measurements, haematology, sedation details and vaccination recommendations are easy to find. Reptilia and Amphibia are dealt with more on a systematic basis which in comparison makes data on a particular species or family rather more difficult to collect together. Some contributions are much more detailed than others. In a few instances this situation could have been improved by the author, but more frequently it simply indicates some of the gaps in our knowledge which have yet to be filled.

Undoubtedly, the book will become the 'bible' particularly of the many veterinary surgeons who have limited access to regular publications on the subject and need a work of ready reference on the surgery shelf. But it will not only be of interest to the veterinary profession; the wealth of general physiological data, much of it from previously unpublished sources, will also make it invaluable to research workers in related fields of biology.

D.M. JONES

Nature in Cities: The natural environment in the design and development of urban green space, edited by **Ian C. Laurie**. Wiley, £17.50.

Our expectations are aroused in the preface of this 420-page illustrated book by its emphasis on international concern for understanding natural processes within the urban environment, and for the possibility of towns being rebuilt with a more fundamentally natural character. The introduction follows up with the statement that 'ecological concepts can penetrate into the work and policies of urban landscape planners', but as we plough through the ensuing 16 under-edited and disjointed contributions from five countries we have a growing sense of an opportunity missed.

The book is marshalled under five headings — the 'philosophic' and the ecological context, natural history in cities, natural character in urban spaces, and landscape planning and management. Of the 23 listed contributors, 15 are described as landscape architects or planners, five as ecologists and the others as specialists in various biological fields. This bias is aggravated by the fact that the five ecologists provide only two of the contributions between them, and that these are confined to somewhat detailed, although valuable, descriptions of specific work in Berlin and around The Hague.

It is encouraging to know that landscape architects and park planners, who have hitherto done so little to prevent, and so much to further, destruction of the ecosystems encroached upon by our towns, are now eager to demonstrate that they have seen the light. The whole concept and execution of the work leaves us, however, in doubt whether the essential understanding of ecological concepts, and above all of urban ecological problems, has really begun to be attained. Apart from the stimulating but inevitably limited Berlin contribution already mentioned, the other two items in The Ecological