

Reports and Journals

Progress, 1964–68. The Nature Conservancy, London, 7s 6d.

This report gives a selective account of the Conservancy's activities in research, in education, and in dealing with the numerous problems posed by, for example, mass recreation, protecting the coast, pollution and toxic chemicals: 'about 200 different pesticides are used in Britain. Nearly all farmland has been treated with one or more at some time since the war, and most areas are treated annually'. There are also brief accounts of issues that made the headlines, such as the Teesdale battle and the *Torrey Canyon* disaster.

The Ark Under Way, edited by **Dr Fritz Vollmar.** WWF, 7/8 Plumtree Court, London EC4, 30s.

The World Wildlife Fund's second report, for 1965–67, is a 'meaty' volume of 320 pages, consisting largely of brief reports on the current projects for which WWF grants have been made. Since 1962 WWF International (as distinct from the national appeals) has supported 183 projects and spent over £795,000 on them. Africa heads the list with 65 projects supported, but in the amount of money spent North and Central America come top with £660,000 and Africa takes third place with £381,000. Oceans and oceanic islands have taken £22,000, of which half was spent on Galapagos. The report is illustrated with good, interesting and relevant black and white photographs.

Seasonal Cycles and Reproduction in Sei Whales of the Southern Hemisphere by **Ray Gambell.** Discovery Reports, Vol XXXV. Cambridge University Press, 80s.

This paper is based mainly on observations in the Antarctic (summer) and collections off Durban (winter) made by biologists of the National Institute of Oceanography, of whom the author is one. The biologists were employed as biologist-inspectors at the whaling station at South Georgia and on the floating factory ships. Sei whales, one of the two remaining whales of the once great Antarctic whale fishery, have a migratory cycle similar to, but rather later than, the other baleen whales.

Biological Conservation is a new international quarterly journal edited by Nicholas Polunin, and published at £6 10s per annum by the Elsevier Publishing Company, who do not acknowledge the assistance they had from the Fauna Preservation Society in the planning stage. The contents cover a wide range, and indeed 30 subjects, from biosphere maintenance to zoos and tourism, are listed on the cover as within the journal's aims. Apart from some weighty general articles on conservation by such eminent conservationists as Baer, Cain, Corner and Cragg, there are good papers on such special aspects as the extinction of the aurochs, Aldabra, the feeding ecology of the pochard, and the effect of land-use changes on the pasque flower *Pulsatilla vulgaris* in England. The more outlets there are for conservation material the better, and we wish the new journal well.

The first number of Purnell's *Encyclopaedia of Animal Life*, which is to be issued in weekly parts (3s 6d each) edited by Dr Maurice Burton and Martin Jones, was published on October 4th with the Aardvark and a dozen other 'A's'. Well and profusely illustrated in colour and black and white.