

photographs are good, but too many have already appeared elsewhere. The black and white sketches by Roland Green are excellent and will help in identification. The map, a small-scale reproduction from the Ordnance Survey, is practically useless. A sketch map giving the places named in the text would have put a finishing touch to this attractive little book. Let us hope that its publication will help towards saving the North Bull sanctuary.

C. L. B.

THE BAROTSELAND JOURNAL OF JAMES STEVENSON-HAMILTON, 1898-99 (CENTRAL AFRICAN ARCHIVES, OPPENHEIMER SERIES : 7). Chatto and Windus, Ltd., London. 35s.

This attractive publication—35 pages of introduction, 237 of text, and 8 of index, with ten illustrations in colour, frontispiece of the author, and a useful map—is a valuable addition to the Central African Archives' Series. It is a thrilling account of an expedition undertaken in 1898, with all the attendant dangers and hardships of those far-away pioneer days, to ascertain the navigability of the Zambesi and to determine the boundaries of Barotseland—now a part of present-day Northern Rhodesia. The introduction, by J. P. R. Wallis, is a remarkable historical document, mainly concerning the Barotse peoples, which provides an extremely interesting background to the endeavours and achievements of the expedition. Stevenson-Hamilton has always been a naturalist, and had it not been for the advent of Africa's first recorded rinderpest visitation a couple of years before he made his trip, no doubt the wild life would have figured even more prominently in his diary. As it is his records again and again refer to an absence of game due to the ravages of this deadly disease. It is interesting to note that Robert Coryndon—later to become Governor of Uganda and then of Kenya—at that time the British Resident in Barotseland, had extended a special measure of protection to the eland, an antelope which is particularly susceptible to rinderpest. Although stirring adventure, critical moments and praiseworthy resolution figure prominently, this diary also reflects history in the making, setting down clearly, faithfully, and immediately and without bias the folk, the conditions, customs, and ways of life, as they presented themselves to the writer.

The reference to the introduction to the Barotse country, in 1898, of the dread cattle scourge, pleuro-pneumonia, is of particular interest, for it is only now after more than fifty years

of unremitting effort, that the disease has been finally eradicated. The author's reference to an error in his sextant readings, possibly because "heat of sun flexes the instrument in some way", is noteworthy, for recently an authoritative suggestion has been made that an otherwise inexplicable deviation made by Livingstone in the course of his last journey in the Bangweulu region (Northern Rhodesia) may have been due to his sextant having been at fault. In December, 1898, Stevenson-Hamilton received his first mail, with English newspapers some four months old, and he records items of special interest. The reviewer cannot possibly overlook the entry "trouble between France and Russia because latter proposed universal disarmament", in 1898! Well, well!

This journal will inevitably have only a restricted appeal, but for the old-timer, for those who have worked and walked in the Dark Continent and for the student of Africa it can be highly recommended.

C. R. S. P.

**NATURE PRESERVATION IN THE CARIBBEAN.** DR. J. H. WESTERMANN. The Foundation for Scientific Research in Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles, c/o Zoological Laboratory of the State University. Utrecht, Holland. Price 4 florins.

In this comparatively short book Dr. Westermann has included a vast amount of comprehensive information on the subject of fauna and flora protection in the Caribbean territories. In an orderly and precise manner he records the past, describes present conditions, and makes recommendations for the future. A work of this nature could be extended and enlarged upon indefinitely and there is little doubt that it will in due course form a basis for further work on the same lines, as affecting individual territories and questions of liaison between them.

Past developments and present conditions are very rightly ascribed to population pressure. It is extremely disturbing to learn that of 106 mammals which have become extinct during the past 2,000 years, no less than 41 have disappeared from the islands of the Caribbean. None are as yet known to have disappeared from the mainland territories but the author foresees a threat in the future unless adequate precautions are taken in time. Certain species have died out through natural causes but the main reasons for extirpation are economic; hunting for food or profit and the destruction of forests for agricultural purposes. Another vital factor has been the