

Lake Nakuru, in Kenya Colony, at sunset with fully a million flamingos in sight. The ruddy rays of the setting sun light up the densely packed throngs with a glowing pink, and suddenly all is dull and drab. But with another dawn the lively freshness of colour returns. Surely it is for us to ensure that there will always be those vast avian hordes to welcome another dawn. It would be to our eternal shame should we by our commissions or omissions dissipate such a heritage.

C. R. S. P.

ZOOLOGICAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN PRACTICE. By HUGH B. COTT.  
Fountain Press, London, 1956. Price £2 12s.

Dr. Cott has had a long and varied experience as a photographer of zoological subjects in many different parts of the world and he is a professional zoologist well known for his work on adaptive coloration. There is thus, combined in one author, a sound knowledge of the practice of photography and a vast zoological learning. But the two aspects are kept too severely in separate compartments—the first part of the book is for the reader ignorant of photography, the last chapters for the photographer ignorant of zoology.

In the middle, it is true, photography and zoology mingle for a brief space and Dr. Cott gives good advice on dealing with photographic problems in extremes of climate, but there is nothing in the book about flash photography or the problem of getting to grips with those shy subjects which cannot normally be photographed without concealment. Colour and ciné are also excluded. In a work costing as much as this, the purchaser may reasonably expect completeness and it could have been achieved by sacrificing some of the photographic information, much of which has no particular bearing on zoological subjects.

As a well-written, simple account of the elements of still photography, with a zoological bias, the book can be warmly recommended. It is handsomely produced and illustrated with 38 text-figures and 68 half-tone plates. The text-figures also are by the author—some in his own distinctive style. He confesses to making a hobby of this type of illustration and modestly suggests that it is merely a matter of a seeing eye and patience. That this is the sum of it is hard to believe!

What is said too seldom in books of this kind (and Dr. Cott is silent on the point) is that anyone who contemplates taking up any branch of photography seriously would be well advised to take a practical course on the subject and thereby save much time in arriving at a reasonable degree of proficiency. G. F.