

Wash before they had been weaned. They proved difficult to feed at first and it had to be done by forcing a long rubber tube right into their stomachs, because they had no idea of sucking or swallowing. One of the most interesting things was the great difference in personality between the two seals, one domineering and somewhat aggressive, the other more friendly. The former—given to R. M. Lockley who succeeded in getting it to swallow pieces of herring—survived and finally escaped into the sea; the latter, which was apparently thriving too, died from an unsuspected deficiency in its diet, after an illness of only forty-eight hours. It seems astonishing to the reviewer that, for a month or more, there was apparently no communication between Lockley and the author of the book as to how their charges “Diana” and “Flipper” were progressing. If there had been, “Flipper’s” life might have been saved too.

The book is copiously illustrated with entertaining vignettes of the seals by Ralph Thompson and by excellent photographs.

The final paragraph is a plea for legislation to save *Phoca vitulina* from extermination, of which there is no danger at the present time. It is a common species in suitable localities round the coasts of the northern hemisphere. The author gives no evidence for the need of legislation and in point of fact there is none.

The book is worth buying, especially if one is already interested in these intelligent creatures.

E. C.

### SHORTER NOTICE

FLEAS, FLUKES AND CUCKOOS. By MIRIAM ROTHSCHILD and THERESA CLAY. Arrow Books. 6s.

The first edition of this book was published by Collins in the New Naturalists Library, 1952. We welcome this cheap edition in Arrow Books. The book is entirely about bird parasites, a very technical subject from which the layman might turn away without further consideration. But he should not do so, for the authors have succeeded in making a highly scientific study easily understandable, interesting to everybody and often very amusing.