

Book Reviews

The Face of the Tiger, by Charles McDougal. Rivington & Deutsch, £6.50.

Until 1969, when George Schaller's classic *The Deer and the Tiger* was published, books about tigers were anecdotal and chiefly concerned with hunting. With the launching of the World Wildlife Fund's campaign to save the species from threatened extinction, three other tiger books appeared in quick succession, by K. Sankhala, Arjan Singh and the writer of this review. Interest in tigers was by then widespread. Charles McDougal has now written an excellent account of one of the intensive studies which arose from the conservation effort. Schaller's work was based on detailed studies of the tiger and its prey species in the Kanha Reserve in India during 1964/5. McDougal, as Director and Chief Naturalist of the Tiger Tops lodge in the Chitawan National Park in Nepal, has based his book on a five-year study in a locality where the Tiger Ecology Project of the Smithsonian Institution has been operating for some years. Wisely, he did not begin where Schaller left off, but first painstakingly repeated the latter's work on population dynamics and territorial and breeding behaviour. The result is an admirable comparison between behaviour patterns in the relatively dry open forest of Kanha and in the dense moist forest of the Nepalese terai. His observations concerning social grouping and dominance hierarchy are particularly interesting. Whether the constant use of live tethered baits and the disturbance caused by the Smithsonian telemetry project resulted in entirely normal behaviour among Chitawan's thirty tigers is perhaps debatable, though both devices undoubtedly facilitated McDougal's studies. The fitting of radio collars has enabled diurnal movements to be plotted accurately for the first time, but could not be used at night when tigers are most active. These shortcomings do not, however, detract from a fascinating and well-illustrated book.

GUY MOUNTFORT

World Guide to Mammals, by Nicole Duplaix and Noel Simon. Octopus, £5.95.
Inside the Animal World, by Maurice and Robert Burton. Macmillan, £6.95.

Of all the recent popular books on the world's mammals this *World Guide* can probably be recommended as the best yet, both in illustrations and text. Many of the large mammals, e.g., the gelada baboon, great apes, big cats and some antelopes, get a page to themselves. As an indication of coverage in the middle-size range, three out of thirteen gazelle species are illustrated and seven out of twelve macaques. The cetaceans get the scantiest treatment among the large mammals with only six pages for the entire group, and the small mammal coverage is erratic: gerbils, for example, with a hundred species, get only one illustration and eight lines; the peculiar naked mole-rat is illustrated but not mentioned, and the distinctive marsupial mole, usually accorded a family to itself, is missing.

The 275 colour illustrations by Peter Barrett set a high standard, both aesthetically and for accuracy. (One is wrongly captioned—the 'Greenland right whale' on p. 136 is in fact a black right whale.) Distribution maps show world distribution of whole groups or more often individual species, but contain a number of errors. Some of the more glaring have been corrected in the British edition, but appear in the review copy, which is the American edition, but others remain—the map on p. 168 is uncaptioned and presumably intended to represent some combination of marten species.

In short, a useful and beautifully produced book that could have benefitted by more careful attention to detail.

The Burtons' book is a concise and authoritative review of animal behaviour for the layman. The thirteen chapters are divided by subject—'eating and drinking', 'holding a territory' etc, each providing examples from a wide range of animal groups including the invertebrates, although the emphasis is on birds and mammals. There are excellent line drawings by Hilary Burn and thirty-two plates of colour photographs.

The diversity of animal form and behaviour is so overwhelming that it is perhaps