

example, is crucial to the parks' well-being. They must have more than the pittance they currently receive. But neither the word nor the subject despoils these pretty pages.

ANTHONY SMITH

**Whales, Dolphins and Man, by Jacqueline Nayman.** Hamlyn, £1.95.

This is a clear, fascinating and eminently readable account of all facets of cetology, extremely informative, and a real bargain, with no fewer than 88 interesting photographs in colour and black and white as well as numerous line drawings. In addition to a lucid chapter on the biology and evolution of cetaceans, there is an intriguing section on the myths about dolphins, including numerous stories about friendly dolphins coming to the aid of stranded or drowning people—one could wish that mankind would play the cetaceans the same compliment.

The antics of the early whalers—when the contest between man and whale was more equal—are fascinating, but the section on modern whaling makes depressing reading. Jacqueline Nayman is understandably pessimistic about the whales' chances of survival. She aptly points out that 'the information on sightings comes in the main from the crews of the whaling vessels who are bound to be biased, and, what is more, are likely to be in the seas where the greatest numbers of whales are to be found'. She concludes with the hope that 'where the scientists have failed public opinion may persuade the whalers to spare the great whales for posterity'. Let us hope that her book helps to do just that.

ANGELA KING

**They Rode into Europe, by Miklos Jankovich, translated by Anthony Dent.** Harrap, £4.50.

This is an English edition of a book written in Hungarian and first published in German in 1968 under the title *Pferde, Reites, Völkerstürme*. The translator, himself an expert on horse lore, has inserted observations in the text which form a sort of running dialogue with the author and add both interest and value.

In his preface the author tells us that, availing himself of material accumulated over centuries in Hungarian archives, he is setting out to elucidate 'those developments in the history of mankind which led in Europe to travel on horseback and to mounted warfare . . . (and) enabled the Eurasians to travel overland from the Atlantic to the Pacific seaboard of the Old World'.

His insistence is that the 'Turanian' or 'Bactrian' horse is the source, by diffusion, of most of the elegant horse-breeds of the modern world, from the Arabian contributor to the English racehorse, to the 'heavenly horses' that play their part in Chinese history and art. The opening section, dealing with the horse ancestral to domestication, is the weakest part, inclining to the conventional speculation about two *ur*-forms of wild primitive—a 'cold-blood' and a 'hot-blood'—for which the evidence is quite insufficient, and underestimating the available length of time and possibilities of prior differentiation by horse-users breeding before these two categories appeared. The later part, comprising the bulk and essential matter of the book, and assembling rich material in quotation, anecdote and illustration through early historical and recent times, is invaluable, shedding light, as the author claims, on all manner of episodes in the development and movements of peoples in the area. Perhaps not over-expensive—the book comprises only

176 pp., but also 121 illustrations—it is gratifying to have it available in English in so well produced a form.

IVOR MONTAGU

**Tigers, by Guy Mountfort.** David & Charles, £2.25.

I wonder what William Blake, when some 100 years back, he wrote those oft-quoted words, would have thought of the present-day tiger situation. More than 60 years ago the reviewer, serving in the Indian Army at a time when tigers abounded, was familiar with 'stripes' in the open woodland haunts in the Central Provinces where a system of strictly controlled shooting blocks was administered by the Forest Department: during one memorable morning twelve came to drink at a river-bed pool. Paradoxically, this was the most effective conservation method one could wish: the tiger population in each block was well known and never permitted to fall below a limit which would inhibit satisfactory recuperation. Villagers were allowed to destroy cattle marauders, though this rarely happened, as an abundance of deer, antelopes and wild swine provided ample tiger food. But the 1914–1918 war heralded an era of change.

Guy Mountfort deals comprehensively with every aspect of a tiger's life, with the maneater problem, distribution in the past, present status, and the operative measures to save so noble a creature. A most useful summary of information includes a map of the existing tiger reserves.

The book is profusely illustrated in colour but some criticism is justifiable, for whereas a superb picture of a tiger in all its feline glory appears on the glossy dust cover, the reproduction of a series of photos of varying merit on the semi-art paper of the text leaves much to be desired. Reproduction on a glossier surface of some of the better pictures would have enhanced the value of so praiseworthy an undertaking.

C. R. S. PITMAN

**Tiger Haven, by Arjan Singh.** Macmillan, £2.95.

It was providential that three books concerning the tiger should be published during the year when the World Wildlife Fund was concentrating its international efforts on saving the species from probable extinction. Arjan Singh, a dedicated tiger-watcher and conservationist, has made an important contribution to public awareness of the threat by this book, which in no way duplicates the other two.\* It is a personal account of his one-man crusade to prevent the disappearance of the tiger and other wildlife from one of the few unspoiled areas on the border between northern Uttar Pradesh and Nepal. He writes with enthusiasm, and he is outspoken in his criticism of the bureaucratic obstructions he had to overcome in winning official recognition for the sanctuary he has created at Dudwa. Conservation needs men of this calibre, who are not afraid to keep on reminding us that the survival of endangered species such as the tiger cannot be achieved at the agonisingly slow pace of normal official procedures. He writes also with intimate knowledge of India's wildlife, and his book is the more readable for its pungent comments on commercially sponsored poaching and on the indifference of local officials towards his enterprise.

Arjan Singh is one of India's relatively few wildlife photographers and cinematographers; some of the numerous illustrations in his book lack clarity, but most of them were taken under the difficult conditions of dense forest, where the major animals can be observed only at dawn or dusk. In a

\* The other two are Guy Mountfort's own book *Tigers*, reviewed above, and *Wild Beauty*, by Kailash Sankhala—see page 495.