

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

introduction of exotic fauna and flora. The best example of the latter form of destructive agency was the introduction of the mongoose into Jamaica in 1872; although introduced for the express purpose of destroying rats in the cane fields this active little animal very soon eliminated various species of indigenous reptiles and ground-nesting birds.

A descriptive list of animals and birds which have become extinct or in danger of extinction is given. The attempts being made to save the flamingo flocks are of special interest particularly to anyone who has had the good fortune to have seen these unique birds in their habitat. The inclusion of information on seals, turtles, and whales helps to make the study complete.

A summary of the existing legislation and the steps being taken to establish conservation areas and initiate wild life protection in the different territories is given. One gathers, however, that although in many cases legislation exists, it is more honoured in the breach. Likewise even where reserves or sanctuaries exist it is often in name only.

In his final recommendations Dr. Westermann advocates the early establishment of conservation areas in all territories where they do not already exist; the enactment of adequate wild life protection laws and the adoption of an international Convention for the Americas and the Caribbean for better protection throughout the area.

This little book should certainly prove of interest to the steadily increasing number of naturalists and conservationists in the Caribbean.

E. W. MARCH.

Note.—A few copies of this book and of the previous book “Conservation in the Caribbean” vide *Oryx*, Vol. 2, No. 1, page 54, are available free of charge to members of the Society especially interested in this subject. Application may be made to the address given at the head of the article.—*Ed.*

DEER HUNTER. JOFF A. THOMSON. Wellington, New Zealand,
A. H. and A. W. Reed. 18s. 6d.

Prior to 1850 there were no deer in New Zealand. In that year some red deer from England were introduced to the Nelson district and since then they have so increased in numbers and range that government shooters alone have been slaughtering something like 40,000 deer per annum. “Thousands of men,”