

classes of animal; and topics as varied as sport, industry, travel facilities and health. This approach leads to considerable overlapping between sections and, therefore, repetitiveness, and it has obviously been hard to avoid the perpetuation of the more questionable as well as the reliable items from travellers' tales or modern touristic folklore. As long as not too much reliance is placed on points of detail, the Guide can be rated as a satisfactory introduction to the East African scene, with the special virtue of incorporating a well-balanced appreciation of the human element.

HUGH ELLIOTT

Ngorongoro—the Eighth Wonder, by Henry Fosbrooke. Deutsch, £3.95.

Within the immense crater of Ngorongoro, which rises from the arid plain of Northern Tanzania, is a Lost World teeming with life much as it was in late Pleistocene times. Urban man may enter here but only as a privileged spectator. How this magnificent relic of the 'Age of Mammals' has survived and its chances for the future are described at length for the first time by Henry Fosbrooke.

With experience of the area extending over 37 years, culminating in his appointment as first Conservator of the Ngorongoro Conservation Unit, his knowledge is detailed and firsthand. The book covers a wide scope in time and space. A meticulously recorded history of the area, much of it previously unpublished, is now collated to provide a lively account for the interested visitor and an invaluable summary for any serious student. Dr Leakey's great discoveries in the Olduvai Gorge, which is in the conservation area, are reviewed; the geology, the plant communities and animal inhabitants are each described from the author's personal experience and from recent scientific papers. Management implications are discussed at each level and a thorough cross-referencing increases the book's practical value. The pastoral Masai are shown to be equally part of the natural scene with a culture adapted to the ecological conditions—their nomadism reducing the over-concentration of livestock which would result from a more static life style. The author sees their active co-operation and good will as the key to the future of the wildlife.

Perhaps the chief interest of the book lies in its well balanced appraisal of how conflicts between humans and wildlife can be reconciled. While stressing the commercial benefits of tourism the author still looks to the aesthetic ideal as the long-term reason for the preservation of this area. The book ends on the positive note, that if the present policies are maintained in the Ngorongoro area it will survive unspoiled for posterity.

IAIN DOUGLAS-HAMILTON

The White Rhino Saga, by Ian Player. Collins, £2.50.

Not long ago a herd of twenty white rhinoceros arrived at Whipsnade from South Africa, a unique conservation experiment. Long years of failure suggest that this rhinoceros is unlikely to breed in captivity from a single pair—a puzzle yet to be explained—but now comes the welcome news of the first white rhinoceros birth from a mating at Whipsnade—the first successful overseas mating—the forerunner it is hoped of many more.

'Story of heroic achievement and adventure' is the Oxford Dictionary's definition of *saga*. There could be no more fitting description—'heroic' the operative word—of the trials and tribulations of the dedicated and devoted band, black and white, of the Natal Parks Board endeavouring to save from extinction this strange prehistoric pachyderm by effective conservation and



CHEETAH HEADS, one of many beautiful drawings by the author, in *Joy Adamson's Africa*, Collins/Harvill, £4.25 to be reviewed in Sept. *Oryx*.

eventual translocation of the surplus. A veritable nightmare is the account of years of blood, sweat and tears spent in developing and perfecting methods of capture, the right type of weapon, the correct immobilising dosage, an effective antidote and the necessary tranquilliser in order to safeguard initial transportation. Satisfactory pens for these huge, most enterprising and powerful creatures capable of climbing almost with the agility of a goat, had to be arranged, and methods of road transport explored, at first in tens of miles, then hundreds, and eventually up to a thousand. Suitable crates containing two-ton rhino had to be skilfully manhandled both on to and off a lorry. The final achievement is the successful transport for thousands of miles by sea.

All this has been accomplished after years of heartbreaking frustration and innumerable disappointments in the face of appalling hazards, periods of utter despair, lack of funds and vital equipment, and only too often official hostility. Briefly, this is an outline of some of the problems involved in getting a herd of white rhinos to Whipsnade—an enthralling story, which certainly will be widely read. It would have benefited considerably by the inclusion of a good deal more about white rhino behaviour and this interesting creature's mode of life.

C.R.S. PITMAN

Listen to the Wild, by Susanne Hart. Collins, £2.50.

Tales concerning wild life in Africa are so numerous and repetitive that their telling has become hackneyed, but here is a tale with a difference—in fact a series of stories the like of which have never before appeared in print. A success story without parallel, often savouring of the miraculous, its theme is succouring wild animals of all sizes, from a small lively genet and a mischievous mongoose to a dainty duiker, obstreperous chimpanzees, non-co-operative cheetah, fractious leopards (tiny and adult), a badly mauled lion and lofty giraffe is certainly a mixed bag!

Attention is focussed on two animals in particular—chimpanzees, free and captive, and the semi-rehabilitated lion, 'Boy'. To incarcerate, by wile and guile, for treatment, a large female chimpanzee in full sight of her wild companions could be asking for trouble. Would she communicate her plight to the others or would the resentful males sense outrage and come to her rescue? Certainly a risky business which might have led to a disastrous confrontation with a horde of exceedingly powerful and potentially dangerous apes.

Nearly one third of the book is devoted to the heroic efforts to restore to good health a terribly maimed, full-grown lion ('Boy'). It is a fascinating and enthralling account of agonizing endeavour, apprehensive anxiety, quick decision and final, scarcely anticipated success. The restoration of a