

paucity of information about some continents finds compensation in the many articles on Africa, mostly in German, and in those on South America, mostly in Spanish—what continent could be more appropriate in a memorial to Dr. Salomon?

Very many beautiful photographs are reproduced but the quality of the paper does not do them justice. Expense must have been the limiting factor and that also is, I suppose, the reason for the paper cover.

C. L. B.

*Note.*—The above book, price £4, may be obtained from the following: Asociación Cultural Nature, Pasaje Seaver 1656, Buenos Aires, Argentine; I.S. Booksellers, Church Square, Cape Town, S. Africa; John Meinert (Pty.), Ltd., Windhoek, S.W. Africa.

ANIMAL FRIENDS AND FOES. By OSMOND P. BRELAND. Faber and Faber. 16s.

Do you want to know what is the most bloodthirsty animal? (Can this question, in fact, be answered?) What crustacean is the most important source of human food? Whether bees die after stinging? If you do, this is the book for you. Professor Breland of the University of Texas has gathered together, under the title *Animal Friends and Foes*, an amazing collection of snippets of information about the animal kingdom, loosely based on a plan of answering the question—which animals are foes, and which friends, to man. Professor Breland would, I think, class as foes all those creatures which kill, harm or irritate man, or which eat or destroy any of his sources of food. And as friends those which do not do these things, prey upon those that do or are themselves sources of food. In this book he does not consider the question any more widely than this though I do detect, here and there, a plea for at least conservative conservation and an understanding of ecology on the part of those who would seek to eradicate or preserve. For the most part this book is a mine of information without in any sense being encyclopaedic or useful in any extensive way as a book of reference. Professor Breland has an easy style; one might almost say he “writes down” too much. In a book which is obviously intended to be serious and informative as well as entertaining it is a pity there are so few references, so few authorities and sources cited and such a paucity of scientific names. The pictures are competent but facetious—they have the same effect on me as does strident and irrelevant music in a nature film.

M. D.