

humanized secretary bird". In a book so comprehensive some factual errors may perhaps be unavoidable, but it is a pity that the excellent photograph facing page 65 should refer to "two sables—a fine male and a female with smaller horns and a paler coat", for the "female" is actually a roan antelope. There can be no better testimony than to conclude with the sentiment "More please, Juliette".

C. R. S. PITMAN.

THROW OUT TWO HANDS. By ANTHONY SMITH. Allen and Unwin. 30s.

The author of this remarkable book is not a conservationist in the sense that he has written any reports or spoken at any technical meetings on the subject. He is a professional writer with a passionate interest in animals and lighter-than-air craft. By combining both interests in a series of balloon trips across sections of East Africa and elsewhere, he has obtained a bird's-eye view of the whole sorry problem of land mismanagement. His description of herds of wildebeest on the move across the plains of the Serengeti are memorable, and he writes objectively of the built-in migratory instinct of certain animals. The numerous colour photographs are of a very high quality and along with the sheer adventure of ballooning, he relates carefully what a layman can both see and learn about the conservation of wildlife. In his lucid, unaffected style of writing, the author has given us a book based on personal experience and with a most unusual viewpoint. In short, he has *done* something beyond making the usual grand tour of the gamelands by Land-Rover. The book is unreservedly recommended.

JOHN HILLABY.

FORKS AND HOPE. By ELSPETH HUXLEY. Chatto and Windus. 30s.

In this timely book by one well versed in her subject, Elspeth Huxley writes, with her usual sense of style, a narrative packed with fact. It is mainly a searching analysis of East African politics, politicians, and ways of life as affected by the "wind of change", its impact and its implications and less than one-third is devoted to wildlife. For someone born and bred in Kenya who was long a part of a country she loves, it must indeed have been difficult to write dispassionately, and poignant are the details of many of the far-reaching results of the scuttles from Africa. Surely there is a touch of genius in "While men create works of art, animals constitute them". She explains graphically and convincingly how first and foremost the preservation and development of the habitat is the basis of successful conservation. There can be nothing so disastrous as some forms of ecological change, whether caused by man, climate, or the wild animals themselves. How incredible is the intransigence of the Masai in their outlook towards their country. "It's our business how we treat it, not yours." Quite so, but having destroyed their own habitat, and this is imminent, they will have no country, and then they will inevitably over-run what has been reserved for the wild animals, to continue there the process of devastation.

The concept of the sacrosanct National Park has always been bedevilled by the prospect of overstocking by some of the larger species such as elephants, buffaloes, and hippos and she refers to what is being done or what might be done to combat this. Can there be justification for a Government-sponsored project "To exploit the human wish to slaughter animals" as an adjunct to conservation? Does not this conflict with the efforts to foster in local populations a better understanding of wildlife and its value? There is the amazing story of how abnormal, protracted rains induced the breeding of nine consecutive generations of the biting-fly *Stomoxys*, which multiplied

to such an extent that lions were driven to seeking refuge in trees, and there was a lion wastage of 75 per cent from the onslaught of myriads of these irritating little pests. One notices an occasional inexactitude, such as "less than three yards wide" for the Murchison Falls cleft (which is actually 19 feet), or the "flapping" ears of a chameleon.

There is originality in Jonathan Kingdon's charcoal drawings. "Hope" is the operative word in the title. Above all it is a book which is highly recommended.

C. R. S. PITMAN.

TO THE ZOO IN A PLASTIC BOX. By JOHN and GEORGE NEWMARK. Routledge and Kegan Paul. 15s.

Though the title may seem light-hearted and the text even more so in places, there is more genuine natural history in this book than in many of its kind, and it is never pretentious nor over-dramatised—both common failings. Partly autobiographical and partly an account of the authors' collecting abroad, it abounds with sound knowledge and advice, and should serve aspiring collectors as an excellent guide. The brothers Newmark are familiar figures at the London Zoo, for they spend much of their leisure time there, and do fine work for young naturalists. As well as photographic illustrations there are good drawings by the authors and by George Gammon.

MAXWELL KNIGHT.

"I NAME THIS PARROT . . ." By ARTHUR A. PRESTWICH. The Author, Edenbridge, Kent. 21s.

"My name may have buoyancy enough to float upon the sea of time," said Mr. Gladstone. One way in which a name may "float" in perpetuity is by being bestowed upon a species of animal or plant, and one has sometimes wondered, on seeing an unknown person's name commemorated, who that person could have been. This book supplies the answer so far as parrots are concerned, and gives additional and interesting information in the form of brief biographical notes.

This is the second edition, enlarged and revised, of a book published in 1958. The names of the persons, in alphabetical order, are taken from the Psittacidae in Peters's *A Check-list of Birds of the World*, III, 1937. The appendices include miscellaneous names that do not qualify for inclusion in the main part; the personal names published since 1936, and the entire list of Psittacidae according to the Check-list. An interesting and well-compiled little work on which the author is to be congratulated.

J. J. YEALLAND.

ANNELIDS. By R. PHILLIPS DALES. Hutchinson. 15s.

The phylum Annelida comprises the segmented, coelomate, free-living worms; the better known classes being the Polychaeta (marine worms), Oligochaeta (earthworms, etc.), and Hirudinea (leeches). Although they are united by having a common, basic body-plan, these worms show considerable morphological, ecological, and behavioural divergences. As a result, they have been studied by workers of different disciplines and comprehensive books on the annelids are rare. Dr. Dales's title suggests that this deficiency has been made good, but this is regrettably not the case, for the book deals primarily with the Polychaeta, on which he is an authority, while the Oligochaeta, Hirudinea, and the smaller groups Archannelida and Myzostomida receive less attention. Nevertheless, it is valuable as a concise