

deals with conservation of whales and seals and gives us good descriptions of his journeys and something of his experiences and his philosophy. Very interesting all of it, and through it runs the theme "consideration for animals", the dominating passion of Dr. Lillie's life.

C. L. B.

A BORDER COUNTY : *Field Sports and Wild Life in Northumberland*. HENRY TEGNER. Robert Hale. 16s.

A number of better-than-average guide books have been written about the Border Country (which is itself a far better-than-average domain) and a dozen books or so on the "huntin', shootin' and fishin'" enjoyed by Border sportsmen have long since risen from local to national repute: authors like J. G. Millais and Abel Chapman spring to mind. One might think that all worth telling had been told—but no! for this remarkable little book by Henry Tegner contrives to become the "better half" of them one and all. From stem to stern it is laden with just those very points the inquiring countryman from another area would want to know; the current coin of the countryside passed on from man to man, most of which in the ordinary way never finds its way into print at all. He leaves the obvious to others. He gives no detailed accounts of notable runs with any of the dozen Border packs of hounds; no record bags from famous Northumbrian moors; no tedious tally of things slain; no long lists of birds observed, and he is so refreshingly free of the clichés and hyperbole of the sporting-journalist—yet, drawing upon his own experience, an incident here, a discovery there, you get the very core of what Northumberland has to offer to the discerning sportsman-naturalist. And few other counties in Britain can compare with it: of this Henry Tegner, whose interests cover every field and who has explored its possibilities for a quarter of a century, has no doubt at all and, in his book, gives ample evidence to back up his opinion. His findings, moreover, are recorded fairly, without fear or favour and with obvious sincerity: a man anxious to learn and ready to tell the truth.

It is commonly said that shooting men make good naturalists and conservors of wild life, inferring presumably that they know the various birds and beasts found on their estates and take the trouble to find out, *for themselves*, enough about how these creatures live and what they eat, to say which should be left alone, which shot at sight. Such honest men exist, but the wish, alas! is only too often father to the thought: a talk with the keeper and a glance at the vermin pole soon acquaints any

thinking observer of *that*. Those who convict on hearsay evidence might well take a leaf out of this book.

Henry Tegner's many chapters range among subjects as diverse as Boxing Day meets, hares, pit-fall duck shooting, mackerel, "wild" goats, sea coal, as well as the more orthodox grouse, trout, and waders. In an excellent chapter entitled "The Corvine Menace", he records a year's total of over 10,000 corbies destroyed at roost shoots organized by the local A.E. Committee—"allowing for some being rooks, an encouraging total," and, a little later, adds characteristically that "jays are more of a menace in the garden than in covert". In another on "Black Grouse" he has much of absorbing interest and acute observation—are not the Borders the "Cradle of Blackgame"?—including the sight of a mass flight at between 300 and 400 feet in the air of *seventy* magnificent cocks, a red-letter day indeed. It is encouraging to learn that blackgame are, if anything, increasing, due, in part, to the belated realization by the Forestry Commission that the blackcock isn't as black as he's painted—one wonders who gave the Commission its mandate to destroy these fine birds in season and out in the first place—a timely gesture in view of the inevitable decline of red grouse as the new plantations invade the open moorland.

Those who know Henry Tegner will not be surprised that he has much to tell about the roe deer, where again the Forestry Commission permits unwarrantable slaughter. And not only the Commission: a man was "reported in the local Press as having slaughtered 550 in three years" in a comparatively limited woodland area—not, one would think, a record to blazon in print and be proud of, since such a total must include beasts butchered irrespective of age or sex. However, as the author remarks, this "sportsman" mentioned incidentally roe weighing up to *ninety* pounds! so his tally-keeping may have been as generous as his spring-balance. But in the long run afforestation favours the roe deer.

In his Foreword to the book the Duke of Northumberland writes that the author's vivid descriptions and the beautiful photographs will give real and lasting pleasure not only to Northumbrians but to all who cherish the wild life and sports of the English countryside. And he is right. E. A. R. E.

NORTH AMERICAN MOOSE. By RANDOLPH L. PETERSON.
University of Toronto Press, 1955. \$12.50.

This is not the first large book about the moose (*Alces alces*). Sweden produced an excellent one recently (*Algen, studier, jakt*