

The many line drawings of birds, maps and other text-figures, all exceptionally clear, are the work of a talented artist, Norman Tolson, who regretably did not live to see the book—and his fine handiwork—produced. The numerous photographs are of high standard, and we note with interest that Eric Hosking is responsible for many of the best.

DAVID BANNERMAN

Our Crowded Planet. Edited by **Fairfield Osborn.** Allen and Unwin, 21s.

Fairfield Osborn has gathered together over a score of distinguished biologists, historians, economists and others, and each has contributed a chapter to this symposium, sponsored by the Conservation Foundation. Expectedly the quality varies but, integrated, this small volume of 192 pages is excellent and should arouse the interest of many. A chapter a week as a basis for a sixth form discussion class would be an excellent use for it. It is informative, educative and authoritative, even if sometimes a trifle dry in the presentation. Those interested in conservation may be, and certainly should be, jolted into greater recognition that it is not alone the personal folly of mankind which jeopardises the continued existence of other creatures, but the inevitable increase of man-pressure as human population doubles and doubles again.

An introduction by the editor precedes five sections whose titles well illustrate the scope of the whole. They are:—Population Pressures on Man's Natural Environment (Frank Darling has an excellent essay here); Population Pressures on Economic and Political Trends (Eugene Black and Solly Zuckerman among others); Population Pressures in Specific Areas (Walter Lowdermilk and others); The Population Problem and Religion; Population Pressures on Morals and Ethics (André Maurois and Julian Huxley).

The integrative powers of Julian Huxley, in his terminal essay, combined with his high distinction in the sheer art of writing, make his contribution pre-eminent. "We must look at the question of population increase in the light of the new vision of human destiny which human science and learning has revealed to us. . . . We must also look at it in the light of the appalling possibilities for evil and misery that still remain for human life in the future. . . . I would say that this vision, of the possibilities of wonder and more fruitful fulfilment on the one hand as against frustration and increasing misery and regimentation on the other, are the twentieth-century equivalents of the traditional Christian view of salvation as against damnation".

COLIN BERTRAM

The Deer of Great Britain and Ireland. By **G. Kenneth Whitehead.** Routledge and Kegan Paul, £6 6s.

For some years after it had been written, the manuscript of this book proved too formidable a proposition for the publishers. Kenneth Whitehead had spared no effort in its early preparation, and had gathered together a vast assemblage of facts resulting from his researches on the distribution of deer in Great Britain and Ireland. Its welcome appearance at the present time has at last made this mine of information available to the many people now increasingly concerned with the conservation and control of deer, as well as the growing number of those who have taken up the study of deer for the interest and pleasure it affords. The publishers are to be congratulated in bringing out so valuable a work of reference.