

The frontispiece shows elephants, lions and buffalos in tree savanna country, and the eleven other colour plates illustrate virtually every species dealt with in the text, most of them very well, though the figure of the blue duiker *Cephalophus monticola*, is poor, and one of the lechwe is a composite animal with the colour of the black lechwe *smithemani* but the great spreading horns of the Kafue lechwe *kafuensis*. The colobus monkey illustrated is *C. abyssinicus* not *angolensis*. Nevertheless the general standard of the illustrations is high and the colour reproduction good. They are a most attractive feature of a book which is excellent value, informative, concise and attractively produced.

W. F. H. ANSELL

Grey Seal, Common Seal, by **R. M. Lockley**. Deutsch, 27s. 6d. There is a mass of information on every aspect of seal life in this "Survival" book published in association with Anglia Television's Natural History Unit; and it makes delightful reading. The author has made extensive observation on seals in the wild and gives some fascinating descriptions of their life and behaviour. A chapter on "The Breeding Season" gives a detailed picture of the grey seal's courtship and mating habits, with plans of two sites, showing the dispersion of the animals over them, a great help in visualising the scene.

Mr. Lockley has also brought up orphan seals, and shows that the curious difference in the temperaments of grey and common seal exists from an early age and is not modified by being reared by humans. Anyone who has watched seals knows that the common seal is livelier than the grey seal, and seems to be more affectionate, or at least less quarrelsome, in its relationship with its companions. Mr. Lockley's orphans showed the same behaviour. Diana, the common seal, always wished to be with her humans, even coming out of the sea when they did; Sabrina, the grey seal, never showed any liking for her guardians. Mr. Lockley points out that "a grey seal pup, in nature, is hostile to all other animals except its mother, and that such hostility is valuable in securing living space in the nursery for the more dominant pups best fitted to carry on the species."

As well as the invaluable results of Mr. Lockley's own observations, one of the most surprising of which is that totally blind seals can live and thrive, the book contains the results of a great deal of work by others on a number of topics: on the depths to which seals can dive, on population studies and on the physiology of seals. Mr. Lockley loves seals and after reading this book, even those who have never seen them will understand why.

DIANA SPEARMAN

No Room for Bears, by **Frank Dufresne**. Allen & Unwin, 32s. Anyone truly fond of animals, whether watching them in the field or reading about them in an armchair, should have this book by purchase or prescription as a gift. This is quite sweeping praise given conscientiously. Frank Dufresne wrote many books about the North but I think this is his best; he knew his animals intimately and he wrote so easily. This book is as full of human and ursine anecdote as many of his others but it holds together as a valuable commentary on the behaviour of the big bears of Alaska and on their several habitats surviving in a hungry new State where natural resources are looked at covetously as ready cash. One is sorry, for example, to hear of the destruction going on at Admiralty Island