

confined to the Channel Isles; eleven, mainly whales, are vagrants; thirteen are established introductions, such as the rabbit and the coypu; six, including the introduced muskrat, are extinct; and three are domestic animals, more or less gone wild. There is no section devoted to conservation, perhaps because the Mammal Society has always left this aspect to the Fauna Preservation Society. Another omission is that of the three vagrant seals, ringed, harp, and hooded, and the walrus, although all the vagrant whales are included. The book is illustrated with mostly functional photographs and excellent drawings by the well-known bird artist, Robert Gillmor.

RICHARD FITTER.

WHILE SOME TREES STAND. By GARTH CHRISTIAN. Newnes. 21s.

The title of this book derives from the writings of Sir Thomas Browne, "Generations pass while some trees stand, and old families last not three oaks." The theme is that our landscape, shaped by good husbandry through many centuries, is now being tampered with on such an ever-increasing scale, that our wildlife and its environment is being affected drastically and thrown out of balance. There is little doubt that our wild plants and animals were safer behind the walls with which the great landowners enclosed their land. In a pleasantly discursive style he shows how the breaking up of the big estates, intensive cultivation, the grubbing up of mixed woodlands and the extensive planting of conifers; has caused the decline of such species as the nightingale, peregrine falcon, sparrow hawk, hedgehog, red squirrel, weasel, and stoat, although encouraging the increase of others such as the badger, fox, hare, and some kinds of deer. He makes a plea for a responsible policy of land management to ensure the continuance of a rich variety of vegetation on which all creatures depend ultimately, and points out that stupidity rather than ill-will has driven many species to the verge of extinction.

This is an all too familiar story, but Mr. Christian brings it home to the reader by personal anecdotes and experiences based on his adopted area of Sussex. He concludes that the possibility of the land of Britain continuing to have "peaceful, wild, remote, and altogether beautiful" stretches of countryside depends on more scientific research into the complicated problems of managing our landscape, on the strength of the county naturalists' trust movement, but perhaps most of all on there being more people who *care*. This book should do much to swell their ranks.

JOHN CLEGG.

ATLANTA MY SEAL. By H. G. HURRELL. William Kimber. 25s.

The Hurrells have a reputation for keeping and studying animals; at various times they have had otters, pine martens, polecats, and badgers, and the author is well known for his writings on birds. It is not therefore surprising to read that when a young female grey seal was found, stranded on the nearby Devon coast, he assumed responsibility for her and, with the help of his family, brought off the difficult feat of rearing her. The book's main interest, however, centres on the author's account of how he taught the seal, Atlanta, to respond to hand signals, the spoken word, and finally to printed letters and words. Atlanta can accurately associate with the command—or, as Mr. Hurrell more often seems to put it to her, the polite request—the action that is expected of her. He is well aware of the chance of misinterpreting the results of his tuition and he discusses the kind of

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