

Advances in botanical investigation during the past half-century and the consequent problem of selection that confronts both teacher and taught are brought strikingly into prominence if the material in this new volume is compared with that published under an almost identical title by F. O. Bower, from the University of Glasgow, in 1919. It is no longer possible for a sixth-former or a student taking the elementary course in a university to deal extensively with the classical morphology and taxonomy which formed the very basis of the older botanical teaching. Elaborate techniques have opened wide vistas in specialized parts of the subject, and Dr. Brook has endeavoured to give the student

an introduction to these new and exciting discoveries, illustrating not only new facets of the subject but showing also where they lead into adjacent fields of research and the part they must inevitably play in general world economy.

The book emphasizes particularly the role of flowering plants. The first section deals with their growth and development, and is followed by a detailed consideration of cell differentiation and internal structure. The next two sections concern nutrition and water relations, together with an account of enzyme action and the chemistry of plant metabolism, concluding with a chapter on the plant and its environment. The fifth section gives an account of the physiology of reproduction, heredity and evolution, including a detailed account of meiosis. More than half the volume therefore is devoted to a well-illustrated account of the higher plants, not only the more elementary facts of germination and growth but introducing also the fresh approaches which new techniques have made possible.

The remainder of the book gives a survey of the plant kingdom as a whole, dealing relatively briefly with the origins and diversity of plant life, its classification and nomenclature, as well as outlining the life-cycles of some members of the main groups.

The book will doubtless be of great value to those preparing for university entrance and also for first-year students in the university. It is well illustrated throughout and has few misprints, though the unfortunate placing of a comma in the rubric of a diagram on page 15 suggests that the primary root of a maize seedling is adventitious. This is a small matter, but one major criticism remains. Between the helpful glossary and full index a small section is devoted to suggestions for further reading. Although these references are grouped according to the six sections, there appears to be no cross-reference to them in the text, in which the names of the main workers in particular research fields are not mentioned—with but few exceptions—unless they are quoted in acknowledgment of diagrams. This is unfortunate because inexperienced students do not get as much help as they need and even the potential enthusiasts could be stimulated by reference in the text to the major research workers in a particular field and then given a precise directive as to where to find further information. In any future edition it would be an improvement if the present reference lists were given at the end of the relevant chapters, rather than hiding their light between the glossary and the index.

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## WILD LIFE TOUR

BERNHARD GRZIMEK: *Rhinos Belong to Everybody*. 207pp. Collins. £3 3s.

HAKON SKAFTE: *Rhino Country*. 191pp. Hale. 21s.

For addicted wild-lifers *Rhinos Belong to Everybody* will be a feast. Dr. Grzimek is a superb photographer and the large colour and black-and-white photographs are technically magnificent. Readers of Dr. Grzimek's magazine *Das Tier* (the best animal magazine published anywhere in the world today) will not be surprised by this high standard.

Briefly, *Rhinos Belong to Everybody* is a miscellany of impressions and anecdotes, lavishly illustrated, garnered from the author's many travels through the once-dark continent of Africa. It is an ideal gift book, lovingly produced and beautifully set out. You can luxuriate through it like chocolate gâteaux, unless, of course, you happen to be on a high-protein reading diet.

Mr. Skafte is a Danish animal collector who set off to trap breeding pairs of the rare Sumatran hairy rhinoceros for the Copenhagen and Basle Zoos. Only a few hundred specimens of this fascinating creature are alive today and they are in constant danger in their native Indonesian swamps because of the supposedly aphrodisiac properties of their horns. The value of one complete horn is equal to that of a brand new American car. The idea of the expedition was to establish a small breeding group of the animals in captivity, but only three rhinos were caught during the several months in the stinking, disease-ridden

forest swamps, and all were females. The first died in the forest and the second soon after arriving at the Basle Zoo; only the third, a splendid creature called Subur ("The fertile one"), has survived. She is the pride of the Copenhagen Zoo, but she cannot live up to her name, as no male has yet been caught. The net result therefore has been to reduce the world population of the species and in no way to improve their chances of survival.

This aspect of the expedition deserves some comment from the author, but he glosses it over and passes rapidly to a general description of his wanderings around south-east Asia. Anyone buying this book under the impression that it is about rhinos should be warned that the rhino hunt ends on page 58. The rest of the time we are journeying through Bali and Cambodia and rhinos are forgotten. As a general travel book it is interesting enough and provides some valuable glimpses of the problems and contrasts of these recently independent tropical regions, but as a work on rhinos it adds little to existing knowledge.

Scotland contains thirty attractive colour plates by G. F. Allen and a useful introduction by Campbell R. Stevens. It is the latest volume in the Panorama series published in Munich by Wilhelm Andermann and distributed in England by Harnett Book Sales (62pp. 19s. 6d.).

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by Desmond Morris