

and it should be also to our shame, are North America with 27 martyrs to "civilization" and the West Indies with 41. For the Eastern Hemisphere, all the animals of ten families and of one entire order are treated as among the vanishing.

Among other summarizations in the present work are: statements as to conditions leading to extermination in seven major areas of the Old World, including lists of the forms of mammals extirpated or threatened; a chronology of exterminations by 50-year periods and countries of the whole world; and an enumeration of the extinctions by mammalian families.

In the main body of the book, the mammals are treated in systematic order by species and often by subspecies. Reference to the original (and sometimes other) scientific descriptions and illustrations, vernacular names (invented if necessary), description, history, status and often suggestions for preservation are included in the accounts. These appear to contain all that can reasonably be expected and are evidently based on vast research. The bibliography (with its regional index) occupies 78 pages. There is also a thorough general index. The work reflects credit on all concerned: sponsors, contributors, author and illustrator (Earl Lincoln Poole).

From the author's summary:

The primary factor in the depletion of the world's mammalian faunas is civilized man, operating either directly through excessive hunting and poisoning, or indirectly through invading or destroying natural habitats, placing firearms in the hands of primitive peoples, or subjecting the primitive faunas of Australia and of various islands to the introduction of aggressive foreign mammals, including fox, mongoose, cat, rat, mouse, and rabbit. . . . The chief hope for the survival of the larger mammals of the world lies in the establishment and maintenance of a sufficient number of sanctuaries. This will avail in most parts of the world, but the matter is not so simple in Australia. Unless sanctuaries in that country can be surrounded with fences that are proof against foxes, rabbits, cats and house rats, even they will not avail for many of the smaller Australian mammals. So perhaps the darkest picture to-day, as far as the future of mammals is concerned, is to be found in Australia, where many of the primitive native species can not stand up against the highly organized introduced pests, and where conditions have gotten largely beyond human control.

The reviewer is not inclined to take so unemotional a view of the situation. He can not admire those propensities in man which apparently are leading to the extermination of every creature that is in any way a competitor, that can be eaten, or is an object of so-called sport. Even less creditable are the motives (in addition to sport shooting) for killing off the rhinoceroses, every form of which is on the

endangered list, because of the premium on their horns, which are regarded as having magic and aphrodisiac properties. This traffic is so inexcusable and so shameful that, if true civilization were dominant, it could never have been allowed to develop, much less to continue to this supposed era of enlightenment. Again every form of primate (a whole order of the animals most nearly related to man) is on the roll of the vanishing; a really intelligent culture would not have permitted this tragic denouement, and now should arrest it by the most positive action.

As to the hunters who kill for the thrill, sentimental protestations by Selous (legend for frontispiece and elsewhere) and by Roosevelt (back of title page *et al.*), for example, leave me cold. These men, roaming the world for "sport," were among the greatest of killers, and must be put in the "Don't do as I do; do as I tell you" school. So far as the welfare of mammals is concerned, good example on their part would have been worth far more to the cause of conservation than any spates of words.

The burden of hunter blame for finishing the mammals is in part indicated by the extinctions of: bears (17 forms), cattle, sheep, antelopes (10), horses, zebras, asses (5) and deer (3); and by the now threatened extirpation of all the forms known on earth of the primates, rhinoceroses, hippopotamuses, musk deer, giraffes, okapis, lions and tigers as well as of a considerable number of species and races of the deer, cattle, goat and antelope groups.

As a race, we know that we are guilty of exterminations, we know that our actions of to-day are sure to add to the shameful scroll, but we go on. Surely the record proves that we are more selfish than intelligent, more human than humane.

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## BOOKS RECEIVED

- BROCK, SAMUEL. *The Basis of Clinical Neurology*. Second edition. Illustrated. Pp. xii + 393. The Williams and Wilkins Company. \$5.50. 1945.
- EVE, A. S. and C. H. CREASEY. *Life and Work of John Tyndall*. Illustrated. Pp. xxxii + 404. The Macmillan Company. \$6.50. 1945.
- LUTZ, HARLEY L. *Guidposts to a Free Economy*. Pp. ix + 206. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. \$2.00. 1945.
- MACKIE, T. J. and J. E. MCCARTNEY. *Handbook of Practical Bacteriology*. Seventh edition. Pp. vii + 720. The Williams and Wilkins Company. \$5.00. 1945.
- MERRIAM, CHARLES E. *Systematic Politics*. Pp. xiii + 349. University of Chicago Press. \$3.75. 1945.
- MUSTARD, HARRY S. *Government in Public Health*. Pp. xix + 219. The Commonwealth Fund, New York. \$1.50. 1945.
- TEMKIN, OWSEL. *The Falling Sickness; A History of Epilepsy from the Greeks to the Beginnings of Modern Neurology*. Illustrated. Pp. xv + 380. The Johns Hopkins Press. \$4.00. 1945.