

differences; but it cannot be forgotten that success in the breeding of fur animals depends upon rapid multiplication, and that the very countries which claim the musk-rat to be harmless are by that indicating that its commercial exploitation there is less likely to be an outstanding success.

In Scotland, musquash were imported for breeding purposes only in 1927, and at first all were bred in captivity. But by accident or otherwise various pairs have escaped, so that in three areas they are known to be at large, and in one Scottish district in 1929 as many as sixteen musquash 'huts' were seen at a time, an indication that conditions there seemed to favour that rapid multiplication of the animal which leads to plague conditions.

A few months ago, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, following upon an investigation made regarding the presence of musk-rats in wild conditions in Scotland, issued a notice requesting any person keeping and breeding musk-rats to inform the Ministry of the fact and of the number of the animals. Speedy action has followed the issue of that notice, for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry, Earl de la Warr, has now introduced a "Destructive Foreign Animals Bill" to the House of Lords, where it was given a first reading. The text of the Bill, issued on June 24, indicates that power would be given to the Minister of Agriculture and the Secretary of State for Scotland, acting jointly, to prohibit by order, either absolutely or except under a licence, the importation into and the keeping within Great Britain of any animal of the species.

The occupier of any land who knows that musk-rats not kept by him under licence are to be found upon it, is required to give notice to the appropriate department, which may take all the steps necessary for their destruction. Anyone importing or attempting to import musk-rats without a licence at a time when this is prohibited, or failing to comply with the terms of his licence, or who turns loose or wilfully allows a musk-rat to escape, would be liable to various penalties. On the other hand, compensation would be paid to persons keeping musk-rats for profit in respect of loss caused by their being compelled to destroy the animals under an order. Special licences may be granted to persons wishing to keep musk-rats for exhibition or scientific research; but the granting of such special licences would have to be accompanied by special precautions, since musk-rats kept for exhibition or research which have

escaped, are just as dangerous fellows as escapes from breeding-pens.

The Bill contains a section which adds enormously to its significance: power is given to extend its provisions to other destructive animals "of any foreign mammalian species".

We trust that this Bill, to which the House of Lords has granted a first reading, will make rapid progress through both Houses. Whether the musk-rat would ever become such a plague in Great Britain as the alien rabbit has turned out to be, none can tell; but where there is so great a risk it is wise to err on the safe side. Moreover, we should be but following the examples of Norway and Germany, both of which have deemed it necessary to prohibit the importation of this foreign pest.

As an Act, the new measure would signify an important progressive step in the laws relating to animals in Great Britain—a tardy recognition of the fact, from which we as well as other nations are suffering, that more may be involved in the thoughtless importation of strange animals than the importer can possibly conceive.

Anthropology and Native Administration.

IN a review entitled "The Anthropology of Africa" in *NATURE* of May 2, p. 655, Prof. B. Malinowski pleaded for a fuller acknowledgment of the science of man as a force in colonial affairs, as well as for its academic recognition in the more important universities of Great Britain. The subject, as a matter of fact, is only taught at three universities—Oxford, Cambridge, and London—and neither of the older universities has an established chair of anthropology, in spite of the glorious tradition of Tylor at Oxford and of Haddon and Rivers at Cambridge. The present organisation of the anthropological departments, with such teachers as Dr. R. R. Marett, Mr. Henry Balfour, and Mr. Dudley Buxton at Oxford and Col. T. C. Hodson at Cambridge, would well warrant a full chair at each university.

We are informed that at Oxford the amount of teaching in social anthropology exceeds the twenty hours mentioned by Prof. Malinowski. The course includes lectures in social anthropology by the Rector of Exeter (Dr. Marett), in colonial history by Prof. Coupland, in African economics by Mr. Henry Balfour, and in racial problems by Mr. Buxton—all subjects which come within the range of anthropological studies.

Col. Hodson writes that, so far as Cambridge is concerned, "Prof. Malinowski's statement that the

Colonial Probationers receive only twenty hours' tuition and that anthropology is not obligatory, needs correction. They receive forty hours' tuition, given by lecturers who have African administrative experience, and they are required to attend these lectures. It is hoped to increase and improve this in the immediate future."

These additional facts give further support to Prof. Malinowski's argument in favour of a general strengthening of anthropology in all the universities of Great Britain and of a greater interest being paid to it by administrative authorities. The difference between twenty, thirty, or even forty hours is not material. It is universally acknowledged that anthropology is necessary, and it is not a contentious point that two or even three score hours will remain a superficial smattering. On the other hand, it seems better that specialising should not begin so early as it does on the Continent, and that young men should take up a colonial career only after they have gone through the ordinary university course; and after this they cannot be asked to spend some five more years on a special colonial course.

There is one practicable method of getting over this difficulty which has already in part been adopted by the colonial authorities, and is receiving the serious consideration of the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures, which has its main seat in London. This is, that officers with a special interest in the application of anthropology to problems of native administration should be given study leave after their first or second term abroad. This involves the creation of refresher courses, and private tuition can be arranged at any of the three universities. Colonial Governments have been working on this system, though only to a limited extent, for some years, and it has given excellent results; it might well be more fully developed. It is important that all the universities where teaching in the subject is given should co-operate in the organising of such teaching and that here the University of London should not be passed over.

The combination of a brief anthropological training, such as is now given at Oxford and Cambridge, with refresher courses of a fuller nature, would provide a solution to a problem which becomes more and more urgent in colonial administration, namely, the problem of not over-burdening the young man eager to go out to the Colonies, and yet making it possible for him to gain, later on, the theoretical knowledge which is admittedly essential to his work.

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African Settlement and the Origin of Rift Valleys.

- (1) *Africa View*. By Julian Huxley. Pp. viii + 455 + 32 plates. (London: Chatto and Windus, 1931.) 15s. net.
- (2) *Living Africa: a Geologist's Wanderings through the Rift Valleys*. By Bailey Willis. Pp. xv + 320 + 21 plates. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.; London: McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Ltd., 1930.) 20s. net.

THESE two books have much in common. They state the impressions formed during tours in East Africa by two highly trained scientific observers. The first is by a brilliant British biologist; the other by one of the most distinguished American geologists. Both authors have the philosopher's respect for first principles, high literary skill, keen insight on a wide range of subjects, and a sympathy which enables them to come to a friendly understanding with all sorts of men. Prof. Bailey Willis during an eight months' tour through East Africa travelled 8000 miles, from Pretoria to Baringo, through Rhodesia, Tanganyika Territory, Uganda, and Kenya, and down the Nile, to study the nature and origin of rift valleys. Prof. Julian Huxley's tour of four months in Tanganyika Territory, Uganda, and Kenya Colony was made on the invitation of a Colonial Office Committee to advise on native education.

Both books are highly complimentary to British administration; and the repeated testimony to its efficiency is especially gratifying from the American author, for he can be a candid critic, for example, upon the inferiority of the motor car that he used to its American equivalent. Both authors have returned deeply impressed by the superiority of indirect rule, as shown by the comparison between the results in Tanganyika Territory and in Kenya Colony; and the testimony of two such competent and different observers should be of special value at a time when the issues are being considered by the Joint Committee on East Africa of the two Houses of Parliament. Prof. Bailey Willis quotes with approval the passage in the Duke of Devonshire's dispatch of 1923 which introduced the phrase "the paramountcy of native interests".

(1) The larger part of Prof. Huxley's book is a lucid and suggestive discussion of the fundamental principles of East African administration. He is a warm champion of the system developed by Lord Lugard in Nigeria, which has been applied by Sir Donald Cameron in Tanganyika Territory and