

but Dr. Williams, an assistant keeper at the U.K. Public Record Office, has endeavoured "to maintain a proper balance" and admits that "In the last event the inclusion or omission of an item rested on personal choice". Anyone bent on finding something to celebrate is not likely to go wanting for long with this chronology. R. J. FIFIELD

Wildlife in Canada

By R. D. Lawrence. Pp. 211 + 31 photographs. (London: Michael Joseph, Ltd., 1966.) 30s. net.

THE jacket blurb claims that "*Wildlife in Canada* is a guide to the main species of wild animals that abound in Canada; it is an intimate study of each; it is a new approach in natural history. . . ." Each chapter deals with a different species of mammal, and is based on an imaginary anecdote, backed up by further details about the animal's life history. But the book is no new approach to natural history; Ernest Thompson Seton did it all more than sixty years ago, and did it better than his numerous imitators, without the purple patches and turgid writing that Mr. Lawrence affects.

L. HARRISON MATTHEWS

Internationale Vereinigung für Theoretische und Angewandte Limnologie

International Association of Theoretical and Applied Limnology. Communication No. 13: Symposium—Factors that Regulate the Sizes of Natural Populations in Fresh Water. Pp. 211. (Stuttgart: E. Schweizerbart'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1965.) 52.40 D.M.

MANY ecologists are concerned, professionally or academically, with the kind of factors which control the density of animal populations. Obviously, in any environment the food supply will ultimately be limiting but there are a growing number of cases where population size is regulated by mechanisms only indirectly, if at all, related to food supply. This type of regulation mechanism is exemplified in the territorial behaviour of salmonids, where the area defended is less when vision is curtailed; it is also in operation where a secretion from the larger individuals suppressed in feeding in the smaller, as in tadpoles, or where crowding depresses reproduction (guppies) or growth rate (perch) and therefore fecundity. This collection of papers given by well known freshwater ecologists at a symposium held at the Windermere Laboratory of the Freshwater Biological Association provides examples of this sort of regulatory mechanism, along with others due to climate, disease, cannibalism, predation, food supply and space. Most contributions appear to have called forth lively discussions and the decision to include full accounts has provided added interest.

This publication may well stimulate further ecological work on freshwater animals, perhaps particularly on fish, for it seems that full advantage has not yet been taken of the opportunities provided by their manageable habitat to elucidate principles which may well obtain for commercially important species. B. STOTT

Diseases of the Cat

By G. T. Wilkinson. With contributions by P. P. Scott and E. Cotchin. Pp. ix + 368. (London and New York: Pergamon Press, Ltd., 1966.) 60s. net.

THIS text-book is designed for the veterinary student, the veterinary surgeon in general practice and the teaching staff of the veterinary schools. It will be of value to all of these, mainly for the collection of modern references from the scattered literature. There are two sections, on nutrition and tumours, each written by a specialist, which are concise and authoritative. The book will be of most value to the veterinary surgeon in general practice, bringing him up to date with some recent descriptions of

disease and therapy. He is better able than the veterinary student to appreciate the text on some of the more common diseases, as he can fill in some of the deficiencies in disease description from his own experience. Brevity in a text is in general commendable, but can be carried too far. Lists of clinical signs are given for a single disease, sometimes without evidence of emphasis or selection, and too often nothing is stated about the incidence, duration, progress and mortality rate of the condition. The author might have been more critical in selecting from the literature. Fifteen signs, many serious, are mentioned in association with roundworm infestation, which is very common and relatively harmless to the cat. Useful information on treatment is given, but in some instances the suggested therapy is open to criticism and it appears that corticosteroids are recommended too widely. There are good colour plates of eye conditions, but some black-and-white plates are too small to be clear. While this book is a "good buy", I think that the subject of the diseases of any common domestic animal is now too big to be adequately covered by three authors, and many more concise specialist sections are necessary for adequate presentation. I. M. LAUDER

Proceedings of the Symposium on Coordination Chemistry

Tihany, Hungary, 1964. Edited by M. T. Beck. Pp. 484. (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, Publishing House of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 1965.) 105s.

THIS book is a record of the symposium on co-ordination chemistry held in Hungary after the seventh International Co-ordination Meeting in Vienna. The overlap between the two conferences might well have been considerable, but the organizer of the Hungarian conference must have been sensitive to this potential problem and it is interesting to see how various facets of the work not discussed in Vienna have been developed in this report. The text contains approximately forty lectures and these are presented as full papers rather than as the now customary abstracts. The topics range virtually over all aspects of co-ordination chemistry but provide admirable surveys of established fields rather than extensive reports of new work. The main emphasis of the conference is on the chemistry of polynuclear, mixed ligands and outer sphere complexes and catalytic phenomena in co-ordination chemistry. In general, books of this nature tend to reside mainly on library shelves; this text, however, should be added to the books of every practising inorganic co-ordination chemist. Considering the standard of presentation, at the price it is a good buy that should be within the reach of a number of people practising inorganic chemistry. J. LEWIS

Domestic and Industrial Chemical Specialties

By L. Chalmers. Pp. xiii + 500. (London: Leonard Hill, 1966.) 110s.

THIS book describes the composition and formulation of a range of products that are used in the home, including soap, synthetic detergents, moth-proofing agents, insecticides, polishes, adhesives, antiseptics, aerosols and paints. The literature on these subjects is scattered and the author aims to provide a comprehensive introduction to the whole field in a form that would appeal to students, chemists and teachers. Historical notes are provided as background information and there is a selected list of literature and patents at the end of each chapter. A wide range of formulations is dealt with in detail, and in this respect the author certainly fulfils his aim. It is easy to be critical, but I would prefer more emphasis on the problems associated with toxicity and dermatitis which are always so important to anyone manufacturing anything for use in industry or in the home. The book is recommended; it is very readable but could have been improved by more careful editing. B. DUDLEY SULLY