

and Holland, is concerned with properties of metals, especially stress corrosion cracking, embrittlement, fatigue, and crack propagation: the last of the papers describes a very thorough and painstaking research. Among a number of isolated papers we next find a group on combustion. Volume 3 then concludes with two excellent papers on operational research in aircraft design and on airline economics.

Papers on jet streams and jet flaps begin Volume 4; there follow three papers on aerophysics and magnetohydrodynamics and three more on various aspects of structural safety. Of the latter, I liked the Swedish paper on statistical 'fail safe' methods. An interesting contribution by Dukes discusses various methods of protection against kinetic heating. The last of three papers on propulsion units contains a stimulating discussion of the possibilities of hypersonic ramjets provided supersonic combustion can be achieved.

The next three major groups of papers are concerned with flutter at supersonic speeds—Ashley and his collaborators give some very interesting comparisons between experiment and the predictions of second-order piston theory—with various aspects of the problem of re-entry from space, and with aviation medicine. The volume concludes with three papers on space flight: the last, by King-Hele, is a fascinating example of what might be called 'by-product research'—it records discoveries relating to the shape of the Earth and to atmospheric density derived from observations of the paths of the Russian and American satellites.

The volumes are well bound and printed on good paper: it is a pity to have to record that they are marred by a large number of misprints. However, the books represent a storehouse of information, with a nice balance of theory and experiment, and containing much of interest and at least something of importance for all concerned with aerospace flight.

A. R. COLLAR

WILDLIFE IN THE BRITISH ISLES

Wildlife in Britain

By Richard Fitter (Pelican Original No. A601). Pp. 191 (67 illustrations). (Harmondsworth, Middx.: Penguin Books, 1963.) 7s. 6d.

Collins' Guide to Bird Watching

By R. S. R. Fitter. Pp. 254+40 plates. (London: William Collins, Sons and Co., Ltd., 1963.) 21s. net.

NEVER have the people of Great Britain been more Nature conscious or better supplied with Nature literature, films, lectures, conducted tours and so on. It seems to be generally agreed that the rising tide of human population and the urbanization of so much countryside is endangering many members of the fauna and flora of the British Isles, and people must be educated to appreciate Nature. New books, new Nature societies appear almost daily. We may well wonder what Gilbert White and the naturalists of old would have thought about it.

Among the latest additions to the vast array of Nature books are R. S. R. Fitter's two excellent volumes, one a survey of *Wildlife in Britain* and the other *Collins' Guide to Bird Watching*.

The first covers a very wide field—mammals, reptiles, insects and even plants come under the author's notice. Of course these subjects are too vast to be dealt with fully in one small book, and generalized descriptions are the most that can be managed; but the whole book is of an introductory character—it is addressed to the newcomer, the novice beginning to take an interest in natural history, providing him, or her, with much helpful information illustrated with excellent photographs and with line drawings.

Complementary and supplementary to this volume is Mr. Fitter's *Collins' Guide to Bird Watching*, about what to watch, where to watch and how to watch. The photographic illustrations are particularly good in this bird volume, and it contains much information that the novice will certainly appreciate. For example, there is a "Topographical Guide", covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, taking county by county and giving for each special birds, habitats, reserves, sanctuaries, societies, books and other literature. The experienced, as well as the inexperienced, observer will find much to help him.

Although both these volumes are intended for the novice the fully fledged ornithologist will find it worth his while to read them carefully. The lists of societies, trusts, etc., will give him food for thought. To-day's array of bodies connected with wildlife and Nature in general, with a preponderance of bird societies, is indeed remarkable.

Let us hope these bodies will be able to do something to help the fauna and flora, so threatened by the ever-increasing urbanization of the British Isles, and their swelling population rendered mobile by the motor-car. People from the built-up areas are for the most part keenly interested in country life and anxious to know more concerning the beings of field, wood and shore. Mr. Fitter's two books may be highly recommended as helpful guides, and it is to be hoped they will become factors in the conservation of wildlife in Britain, a matter, despite all the societies, of no small difficulty and of which the future is hard to see.

FRANCES PITT

HIMALAYAN CLAVARIACEAE

The Clavariaceae of India

By Dr. K. S. Thind. Pp. vii+197 (7 plates). (New Delhi: Indian Council of Agricultural Research, 1961.) Rs. 20.

THE Himalayas are a region of great importance to the mycologist. The floras of Europe, the Mediterranean, north Asia and tropical Asia meet there and create one of the best grounds for the study of fungi. As yet few of them have been collected, but the author of this volume and his students at the Panjab University, Chandigarh, have begun the task. Lack of taxonomic literature and of access to type-collections is a severe handicap and progress must necessarily be along lines which have been developed by recent world-monographs. This volume presents for the benefit of Indian students the present knowledge of the miscellaneous family of Clavariaceae. Dr. Thind and his students have raised the number of species yet known from India from a very dubious 17 to 65. The final total will probably reach more than 100, but the help of more botanists must be enlisted, and that is the purpose of the work.

There are good descriptions, keys, line-drawings, and photographs at a very reasonable price. The classification followed is that of my own monograph on this subject, and it is gratifying to note that Dr. Thind finds that it works in his rich and previously unexplored territory. It is a pity that some of the illustrations of the monograph were not borrowed to assist in the introductory account of this volume. Most of the new Indian records have already been published in journals, and are here conveniently brought together. As an example of the handicap in literature, the author has been unable to use Pilat's recent account of the European species of the family, and published in *Acta Musei Nationalis Pragae* (1958).

The Himalayan region is rich in species of *Ramaria* and *Clavulina*. They need much further study, for they link up with those of North American and Australia and