

acclimatization was at its height. This is markedly shown by an extract from an 1864 Customs Ordinance which allowed the free import of horses, mules, asses, sheep, and *all other livestock and live animals*. But, as Dr. Wodzicki points out, it must be remembered that the early settlers found no indigenous mammals to supply them with food; their chief concern was to build up a potential food supply.

Having written of the present position of mammals and birds in general, having described the organization of wild life control and made an estimate of its cost, Dr. Wodzicki turns to the introduced mammals in detail. He tells the story of each animal's spread, of protective legislation changing to severe control. He compares, for example, the economic value of skins with the damage to indigenous and introduced vegetation. The rabbit, red deer and opossum are the hardest problem but such diverse animals as hedgehog, weasel, wild horse, moose and pig are dealt with. This analysis, clearly and simply illustrated with tables and maps, comprises the greater part of the book. Not one of the mammals introduced and released is found on balance to have been an advantage.

Let me conclude this review of an admirable book with the words quoted from Graham: "When a species is introduced into an area where it has not lived before, it is almost impossible to foretell the consequences, although it is quite probable that it will either succeed gloriously or eventually fail entirely."

Let the introducer beware.

C. L. B.

COLLECTING REASONABLY

TANDALLA. By Count G. AHLEFELDT-BILLE, Chief Game Warden of Denmark. Routledge and Kegan Paul. 25s.

In 1947 Count Ahlefeldt-Bille led the Danish-East African Scientific Expedition to collect scientific and ethnographical material for Danish museums.

Tandalla (the native name for the Greater Kudu) is not a report on every aspect of the expedition but is a pleasant general account of the safari in Kenya and northern Tanganyika. Of the country, its animals and people, the author draws an intimate picture easily imagined by readers who are unfamiliar with the face of East Africa. He gives interesting details of the daily life and customs of the native tribes he encountered, with clear drawings of their huts and household possessions.

N

As Count Ahlefeldt tells us, hunting is almost his profession and this is evident in his account of the pursuit of the animals he collected. At the same time one can share the excitement and fascination he obviously felt when quietly watching wild creatures at home. It comes as somewhat of a shock therefore to see photographs with captions such as "Measuring Museum's Rhino-cow, where she rolled down to rest". Surely few people want to see pictures of fine animals lying dead, even if they were killed in a scientific cause. The photographs are not a strong feature of this book.

The book is translated from the Danish, and this may explain the incorrect statement that rinderpest is carried by certain kinds of tsetse fly. A map shows the several safari routes, based on Nairobi, and at the end there is an appendix giving notes on the collections made. The expedition was obviously a very happy one and certainly fruitful for the museums which received the collections.

A. M. V. B.

A PLACE OF ENCHANTMENT

FLINDERS CHASE. By MERVINIA MASTERMAN. Georgian House Pty., Ltd., Melbourne. 7s. 6d.

Most of us have at some time known a particular spot which has been a place of enchantment. It may have been a childhood haunt, a small thicket, which appeared no less than a forest, or a lovely area of country grown familiar in many holiday visits. In this light, Mrs. Masterman shows us Flinders Chase where she and her family spent many summer months camping in a caravan.

Flinders Chase, on Kangaroo Island, South Australia, is a sanctuary of 212 square miles established in 1919 for the protection of fauna and flora. It is under the management of the Fauna and Flora Board of South Australia and has a resident ranger. An important part is the Government Apiary, from which queen bees are sent all over Australia.

The author describes the animals, including the birds living around the camp by the Rocky River. She gives many details of habits and behaviour not ordinarily found in natural history books, and one feels at home with the friendly wallabies and kangaroos which became such familiar visitors to the camp.

The text is decorated with sketches of wild creatures drawn by the author, who also painted the attractive coloured plates