

Mr. Pootman's book, translated into good, readable English, is in the nature of a well-balanced survey of major pieces of research into this absorbing field, covering a wide selection of animals, and amply supplemented with the author's own observations. The photographic illustrations are very good.

Only one error needs to be pointed out, a typographical one. "The British bird-watcher David Lang" mentioned on page 22 is, of course, David Lack of robin fame.

A. L.

NATURE IS MY HOBBY. By C. V. A. ADAMS. Wheaton: Exeter. 15s.

The amateur naturalist is usually either an observer or a collector; this book is written for the latter and is a very valuable addition to the current literature in this field. Mr. Adams has managed to gather together many valuable hints on collecting and preserving insects, shells, skulls, flowers and sea weeds. There is a section on the collection and mounting of birds' nests which is a subject rarely covered in natural history guides. Finally, there is a chapter on setting up and keeping aquaria and vivaria. Many of these topics are dealt with in other books, but the great value of Mr. Adams's work is that they are all together in one volume and it is quite obvious that all his advice is based on practical experience. The book is illustrated by photographs and a large number of excellent drawings—those describing the construction of nets and other apparatus being particularly good. One or two slight errors, particularly in the glossary, do little to detract from the value of this work.

The book deals only with the collection and preservation of specimens, not their identification, but there are good bibliographies after each section which list books suitable for further reading and these will help to solve any taxonomic problems.

In the introduction F. S. Russell particularly recommends this book to younger people and, although mainly written for them, it will be of use to teachers as well, particularly in secondary schools, and, in fact to all who have an interest in this branch of natural history.

D. G. L.

JAMES AND SUSAN IN THE COUNTRY. By J. CLEMENT-JONES. Illustrated by Gunvor Övden. Hutchinson. 9s. 6d.

Apart from their school books, most children under fourteen or fifteen read purely for pleasure; in books they seek not