

up suspense, and without the incidents maturing from anecdote into something grander. This work is best as a general introduction, not to the people but to the high ranges and natural history of the area, to the bizarre botany of the mountains of the moon.

Rennie Bere ended his time in Africa as Chief Warden of the Uganda National Parks. This was obviously a crowning happiness to his career, for the book implies that all three decades were of contentment with the final time at Mweya best of all—apart from those many scramblings uphill. His short book is written smoothly, the facts are affectionately recounted, and one wonders how the author can now bear to live at Bude, Cornwall. It fills even a reader with a desire to go back to those parts where he used to live.

ANTHONY SMITH

The African Lion, by Mervyn Cowie. The African Elephant, by Rennie Bere. Barker, 21s. each.

Mervyn Cowie, formerly Director of Kenya National Parks, who has done more than anyone else to establish National Parks in Kenya, examines the lion's life history, foibles and fables. The first section of the book deals with the life history, the lion's place in the African scene and relationship with its prey, the animals that depend on it for food, those that fear it, and those, from the enormous elephant to the diminutive ratel, who fear it not. The second section concerns its relationship with man, from man-eating to marauding, to lion men (and women) and witchcraft. In both sections the author very properly debunks a number of well-known "facts".

Rennie Bere, formerly Director and Chief Warden of Uganda National Parks, sets out the life history of the elephant in a similar manner, and manages to condense a wealth of information about his subject into a short and readable account, with many keen observations made by himself during his years of close association with elephants. He, too, disproves many a well-known "fact." I was pleased to see how much stress he puts on the thorny subject of population control and management of habitat if this delightful and interesting animal is to survive this modern age.

Both books are illustrated with excellent photographs in colour and black and white, and the elephant book is also enhanced by a very good reproduction of a David Shepherd painting. They are first-class value for readers of all ages and highly recommended.

R. J. WHEATER

The Land and Wildlife of South America, by Marston Bates, and Tropical Asia, by S. Dillon Ripley.

Time-Life International, 32s. 6d. each.

South America is a continent of immense wildlife variety and Marston Bates's book is a magnificent introduction to it, a masterpiece of lucid compression, beautifully illustrated and interesting from beginning to end. To many English people South America is just the Amazon. The Orinoco-Amazon river basin is an enormous inland sea, gradually rising and turning into a huge freshwater river system. To this the inhabitants must accommodate themselves, and so we find skates and rays in the rivers, freshwater dolphins, and mammals which take readily to the water. When floods come, all life must swim, climb or perish.

In the continent's long period of insular isolation, until two or three