

HUNTING AND FAUNA PROTECTION IN ANGOLA. By S. NEWTON DA SILVA. Written in Portuguese. *Libraria Portugal Rua do Carmo 70, Lisbon. Esc. 40 (10s.).*

Senhor Newton da Silva is already well known to this Society as a champion of conservation in Angola. An article by him appeared in *Oryza*, vol. I, No. 7. He also seems to be one of the few voices crying in the wilderness, so far as Angola is concerned.

This book, which unfortunately lacks a map, is a real cry from the heart—an appeal for proper protection of the rapidly dwindling fauna of Angola. The first part of the book is a history of the growth of the conservation idea, and the author is well versed in the literature of international conservation, quoting authorities such as Dr. Fairfield Osborn, Professor Heim and Monsieur J. P. Harroy. As the book is in Portuguese let us hope it may reach a public who so far do not seem to have put that idea into practice.

Little zoological exploration has been done in Angola, except by a few foreign expeditions. The country has suffered from lack of knowledge, inadequate laws and those not properly enforced, shortage of trained staff, and almost unchecked poaching—all stemming, in the author's opinion, from lack of interest in official circles. There are, however, some signs of improvement as exemplified in a recent letter from Senhor da Silva himself, giving news of an increase in numbers of the black rhinoceros in the national park of Porto Alexandre which is now patrolled by a European Game Ranger with African helpers.

V. B.

WHERE THE RUSHES GROW GREEN. By A. WINDSOR-RICHARDS. Illustrated by EDWARD OSMOND. Hutchinson. 9s. 6d.

Here is another of this author's delightful novels with a nature theme for children. It is beautifully illustrated. Any child picking the book up would, I think, be charmed by the picture on the dust-cover and the pictorial map inside. He would find in the story of Voley, the water vole, enough interest and excitement to keep him reading to the end, picking up on the way a good deal of information about the river and the animals and plants that live in or near it. The author is obviously a sensitive naturalist, able to write about what he has observed in a way that should delight any child lucky enough to be given one of his books. He is doing us a service, too, in writing for children between the ages of about eight and eleven, as this

seems to be the doldrums in children's books—plenty for the very young and somewhat older, but few for those in between.

I can recommend this book sincerely but must, nevertheless, make two criticisms. I think it is a pity that the author uses "thoughts" by animals that they would be unlikely to have, as a device for explaining things in his story. For example, after Voley has seen a female weasel carry her young from one nest to a safer one, we read, "Voley guessed that now all the family was hidden in some secret place." I also think that, as a naturalist, the author should have avoided making anthropomorphic "moral" judgments on animals' behaviour. We are definitely made to think that the weasel, for example, and the pike are in some way "wicked" and "cruel"—and the rat "ugly". I realize that the story must be written in words that the child can understand, and the emotions expressed in terms with which he is familiar. But I still think this sort of thing should be avoided as far as possible in books as serious in intent as Mr. Windsor-Richards's obviously are.

M. D.