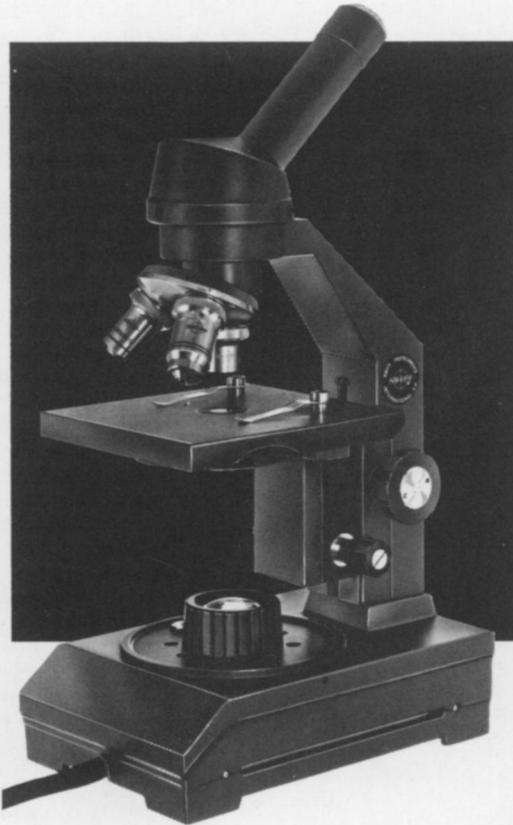


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ELEPHANTS AND MAMMOTHS, by Gwynne Vevers. 1970. McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York. 32 pp. \$4.50.

One of a series of natural-history books designed for the intermediate grades, this volume was originally published in Great Britain. The author discusses the two kinds of elephants, describes their habits, briefly reviews related animals, both living and extinct, and concludes with a short statement about their future. The content is quite sketchy, particularly as to present problems of conservation.

The abundant illustrations, in color, compliment the text, even though they are lacking in detail. There is no index.

Unfortunately, the most distinctive part of the book seems to be its high price.

Rudy G. Koch
Wisconsin State University
Superior

For Young Readers

THE LIFE OF THE JUNGLE, by Paul W. Richards. 1970. McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York. 232 pp. \$4.95.

This interesting book in McGraw-Hill's "Our Living World of Nature" series is by a well-known authority on the world's jungles. Richards takes the reader on a trip through the jungle,

describing its flora and fauna and their interrelationships. He compares the ecology of the jungle with that of temperate-zone situations familiar to most readers. Misconceptions about tropical forests are discussed. The author tells how man's activities are endangering the jungles of the world.

More than 100 color photographs and many black-and-white and duotone drawings illustrate the text. There is a complete index and a glossary. Helpful appendices list jungle preserves around the world, junglelike regions in the United States, and endangered jungle wildlife.

This book should be a part of every elementary and secondary school library.

William T. Barker
North Dakota State University
Fargo

BATS, by David Pye. 1970. McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York. 32 pp. \$4.50.

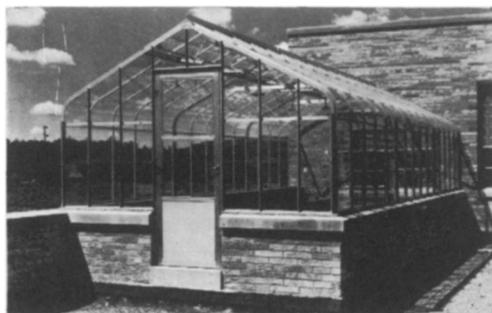
This small book is part of a series in natural history. Except for a brief section detailing bat distribution in England but giving no comparable data on American bats, the fact that the book was originally published in Great Britain is not noticeable. The author discusses such topics as wing structure and function, feeding habits, "radar" (the author's term), and unusual species, concluding with a brief family tree. The text, intended for children in the intermediate and upper grades, seems unusually laden with taxonomic terms, which might be formidable to most young readers.

Despite its brevity, the book contains a wealth of information for the beginner. The illustrations are good—adding to the book's value and somewhat offsetting the lack of an index. The book would be a useful addition to the library, although the price seems excessive.

Rudy G. Koch
Wisconsin State University
Superior

FRESH AS A DAISY, NEAT AS A PIN: THE CLEAN BOOK, by William Wise. 1970. Parents' Magazine Press, New York. 64 pp. \$3.47.

Children will be interested in the animals in the first part of the book: the wild horse, the house cat, the monkeys, and the rhinoceros. But certain kinds of characteristic behavior are anthropomorphically attributed to the animals' desire to keep clean; for example, we read that a wild horse "feels dirty"; the cat, after licking herself, "feels better"; and, while bathing, sparrows "seem happy to have found the chance to be clean again." Suppose that, soon after reading this, the child sees sparrows bathing in the dust? Is this the best approach to animal behavior?



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The historical accounts of the habits of cleanliness of some people, including kings and queens, are the best part of the book. Particularly interesting is the story of a battle won because one side used crude aseptic practices, while the enemy used none.

A large part of the book is given over to hygiene and is, unfortunately, repetitious of what the child has in school.

A timely addition to the book would have been some mention of the importance of saving water—a resource that may be in short supply as the population increases.

Frances L. Behnke
Teachers College
Columbia University
New York

THAT REMARKABLE CREATURE, THE SNAIL, by Oscar Schisgall. 1970. Julian Messner, New York. 62 pp. \$3.95.

The author leads the young reader quickly through the history, anatomy, and life cycle of snails. He devotes the last part of the book to down-to-earth talk about finding (or buying) snails and studying their activities at home.

Indications of the actual size of the photographed snails and of their geographic origin would have been helpful; but perhaps that would have detracted from the beauty of the pictures and the readability of the text. This

is a book to arouse the interest of children in the study of an interesting animal.

Richard E. Barthelemy
Bell Museum of Natural History
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis

FIRST YOU CATCH A FLY, by John D. Cunningham. 1970. McCall Publishing Co., New York. 88 pp. \$4.95.

This book about flies contains many facts, questions, and experiments. The contents are uneven. After discussing macroclimate and microclimate, for instance, the author is content to ask the reader, "What is the activity season of each type of fly?" and other questions of that sort. On the other hand, a fairly sophisticated experiment, with complete instructions, is one designed to reveal the taste threshold of flies given sugar. The author mentions that the experiments should be done humanely—but he does so in the middle of the book, where the caution is likely to go unnoticed or perhaps encountered after some experiments have been cruelly conducted.

It is difficult to decide what age group the author had in mind. The organization and presentation are elementary, but the vocabulary is more likely to be understood by junior or senior high school students, and much

of the humor is of the sort that adults appreciate.

Of the many line drawings, some complement the text nicely; however, many are inaccurate. A young person who could wade through the vocabulary and ignore the faulty illustrations may find this book interesting.

Alan R. von Ahlefeldt
Roy J. Wasson High School
Colorado Springs

ESKIMOS: PEOPLE OF ALASKA, by Patricia Miles Martin. 1970. Parents' Magazine Press, New York. 64 pp. \$3.47.

This is an engaging story of the Inuit, "the strong good-natured Real People who have found a way to live in the beautiful, cold lands of the Far North." The information-packed book about Alaska, the Eskimo, and the Aleut has a simple and charming style. Timely for both conservationists and teachers, it gives an illustration of a way of life on the verge of change.

Today we think much about law and order. How refreshing was the Inuits' way of dealing with violators! "If a man broke a law all the people gathered around him and sang songs about the bad things he had done. They made fun of him. To the Eskimo it was a great punishment to be shamed by his people." And we find that "the land where