navigation, circadian rhythms, memory, learning, bioluminescence, and bioelectricity. Interestingly written, accurately researched, and illustrated with line drawings, this book should be made available to secondary and college students. It prods the imagination as to the possibilities of tomorrow.

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THE YEAR OF THE SEAL, by Victor B. Scheffer. 1970. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 216 pp. $7.95.

Birth and death, perils of the sea, the forces of nature, and man himself are endless challenges in the life of the seal. The author, writing in the present tense, provides a delightful and often poignant account of the Alaskan fur seal in the Pribilof Islands and along the migratory route southward. Each episode unfolds vividly.

The principal character is Golden Seal, a female of peculiar coloration, who survives the harsh environment of land and sea while others of her species are not so fortunate. The story provides an accurate insight into the biologic adaptations of the seals, past and present research with marine mammals, and efforts to preserve these animals.

The beautiful illustrations and fast-moving narrative will give enjoyment to any animal-lover.

Elizabeth J. Davison
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For Young Readers

ANIMALS NEAR AND FAR, by Helen Hoover. 1970. Parents' Magazine Press, New York. 64 pp. $4.50 (hardback).

The premise of this story, written for ages 4 to 8, is an imaginary vacation trip around the United States with stops along the way to study wild animals. Animals studied include the ring-necked pheasant, Baltimore oriole, wild turkey, manatee, whooping crane, wood rat, prairie dog, black-footed ferret, bison, mule deer, Hawaiian goose, Kodiak bear, and polar bear.

The story seems very contrived and uneven. Not enough information is given on any of the animals, and several statements are quite misleading; for example, manatees are described as being like huge, gray scaleless fish with no fins. This fish-image is not corrected throughout the section on manatees. Anthropromorphism—for example, prairie dogs sleep in their "bedrooms" for the night and young Baltimore orioles answer their mother's "where? where?" with "here-we-are-mama"—is characteristic of several of the stories.

The author does emphasize the need to preserve and protect animal life. The sections on the whooping crane and the bison provide examples of how man nearly eradicated these animals and then made very serious efforts to save them. Children are cautioned that prairie dogs, the black-footed ferret, and polar bears are in danger of becoming extinct, so must be protected.

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WHAT WE FIND WHEN WE LOOK AT MOLDS, by William D. Gray. 1970. McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York. 40 pp. $4.72 (hardback).

This brief book is designed to introduce primary-school children to a relatively unspectacular though ubiquitous division of the plant world. After describing the essential environment for growing molds, the author points out many common kinds and some of their uses. Children will be interested to learn of the molds found in and on foods, of the molds that sometimes live on our bodies (ringworm, athlete's foot), and of those that are helpful in curing disease (penicillin). There are no photographs, but the line drawings, by Howard Berelson, are strikingly authentic.

Several experiments are suggested, so that children may discover for themselves how molds grow. The experiment in which molds in a glass jar eventually convert leaves, fruit peelings, and other organic detritus into soil should awaken children's appreciation of molds as an invaluable agent for disposing of many of the waste products in this world.

Gray's style is appropriately simple. He achieves his purpose of providing material that beginning readers can understand—material that is interesting enough to whet their appetite for further investigation.

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LIQUIDS, by William Lumsden. 1970. John Day Co., New York. 48 pp. $2.97.

It is not an easy task to explain the laws of physics simply and clearly enough that they can be understood by young children. Lumsden has undertaken to examine the properties of many different kinds of liquids and their actions under various conditions. His examples are common, everyday substances and experiences that are so taken for granted that they may have gone unobserved by the young reader until his attention is focused on a particular occurrence and the reasons for an action or reaction are analyzed. Temperatures at which various substances change from liquid to solid or to gas are tabulated, and methods of transporting and storing liquids from early times to the present are examined,