

hormones from the suprarenal or adrenal glands, quite profound and often long-standing illness can ensue. Diseases due to congenital or genetic defects and, of course, senility are also brought more sharply into view. Thus with man's conquest of certain health problems others remain still to be solved.

It would be churlish to carp at the minor details of this book for Mr. Fiennes has done what few people of his standing would care to attempt and at the same time produced a most stimulating and readable work. But one feels that sometimes the really acute problems have not been grasped sufficiently firmly so that for the general reader they appear more interesting than serious.

K. M. BACKHOUSE

**The Universe, by David Bergamini. The Earth, by Arthur Beiser. Evolution, by Ruth Moore.** Life Nature Library, Time-Life International, 32s. 6d. each.

David Bergamini recalls the historical steps of man's extraordinary knowledge of the universe, from the observations of the Chinese, who recorded eclipses in 4000 B.C., to the radio telescopes of to-day, which can tell us of galaxies millions of light years away, and gives a fascinating account of our own galaxy and the comets and meteorites which accompany our journey through space.

Dr. Beiser discusses three theories of the formation of continents, considers the earth's weather, hurricanes and other natural phenomena, and in the final chapter suggests that, millions of years before the world ends in some celestial disaster, man must learn to manage it better, lest he manage his own premature extinction.

Ruth Moore, one of America's foremost writers of popular science, starts historically with Thales, Aristotle, Lamarck and de Buffon, then turns to Darwin. Discussing heredity she gives clear and simple explanations for the unscientific reader of Mendel's experiments and of genes, chromosomes and the nucleic acids. In a section devoted to fossil remains of man's early relations, she should have mentioned that, though the importance of Dr. Leakey's fine work in the Olduvai gorge is universally recognised, the conclusions he draws are the subject of considerable scientific dispute.

Like previous volumes all these three are beautifully illustrated and are strongly recommended.

C. L. BOYLE

**Kiki the Mousebird, by Lyn and Hubert Gutteridge.** Collins, 21s.

The Gutteridges have made their home on St. Lucia estuary in South Africa into a bird sanctuary where Mrs. Gutteridge nurses any injured or orphaned birds, returning them to the wild as soon as they are fit. This is the story of one that refused to go. Young birds and mammals, reared by humans, transfer to them the emotions, whatever they are—and even to the most convinced behaviourists they look like love—that they have felt for their natural parents. Nearly all lose this attitude as soon as they can fend for themselves, but there are exceptions, and Kiki is one. Although quite free, and with birds of his own species frequenting the garden, he remains firmly attached to his adopted parent, exhibiting at time a frantic jealousy of her husband and other birds.

This is a simple story, perhaps too simple for some readers, but this kind of experience has an age-old appeal. One of the remarkable things is the response of the Zulus to Mrs Gutteridge's activities. Kiki came to her through