

carnivores. Is the giant panda an overgrown, pied lesser panda or a bamboo-munching bear? There are essays on the lesser panda, and panda killers, and a thorough analysis of the features which make this rather dim-witted animal so appealing. The various appendices and a full bibliography make the book a valuable source of reference. It is a highly readable, often exciting work, illustrated and set out in a delightful way which more conservative publishers could do well to emulate. There is one serious omission, however, which the book itself may well help to fill; let us hope that a future edition may include a chapter on field work.

JOHN SPARKS

Mammals of the Pacific States, by **Lloyd G. Ingles**. Stanford University Press and O.U.P., 80s.

The first edition of this book was modestly confined to California; the second included the coastal waters and therefore a most interesting section on the whales; the third has reached farther afield to cover Oregon and Washington as well, so that the status of mammals in the important regions of the Cascades and the Olympic Peninsula is described. Though this work is so regional in its title and described as being for students and beginners in mammalogy, let no one be so mistaken as to pass it by lightly. It is a scholarly book of painstaking accuracy most serviceably illustrated. The valuable keys and descriptions are terse, as they should be, but the text is refreshingly interesting, so much so that many Old World students of mammals will be glad to have the book.

Anyone sensitive to the romance of the interlocked histories of men and other mammals will find several examples here. History is not all tragedy: Steller's sealion can still be seen by ordinary folk near San Francisco and at Monterey; and it is quite wonderful at that beautiful and thrilling Monterey Point to watch a sea otter lying on its back in the surf, after a period when we had thought it extinct. Further, there is the story of the grey whale, also thought to be extinct in American waters, which turned up again in Scammon's Bay, the place where that cunning old whaling captain had found it (and exploited it) a century ago. The gentle and playful behaviour of grey whale cows and their calves can be observed from the air, for the animals lie near the surface of the water.

Lloyd Ingles sees mammals in their total environment, physical and behavioural, and because of this deplores the training of students in depth before they have become educated in and aware of breadth. Members of this Society will so warmly agree with him.

F. FRASER DARLING

The Terrestrial Mammals of Western Europe, by **G. B. Corbet**. Foulis, 56s.

If national boundaries stand firm politically, they are, zoologically at least, now tending to vanish, especially as travel is so much easier to many parts of the world. Naturalists have been quick to take advantage of this and so there has been a need for a handbook such as this for a good many years. Up to date the only publication fulfilling the need has been the field guide by van den Brink, which has excellent illustrations but has not yet appeared in an English version.

But Dr Corbet's book, which covers European mammals west of Russia with the exception of bats, seals and whales, is a good deal more than a