

word was first used in the herpetological literature. Most of the terms are naturally concerned with reptilian anatomy, but he has also delved deep into the spheres of behaviour, physiology and other relevant fields to provide us with this efficient and helpful book.

RAMONA MORRIS.

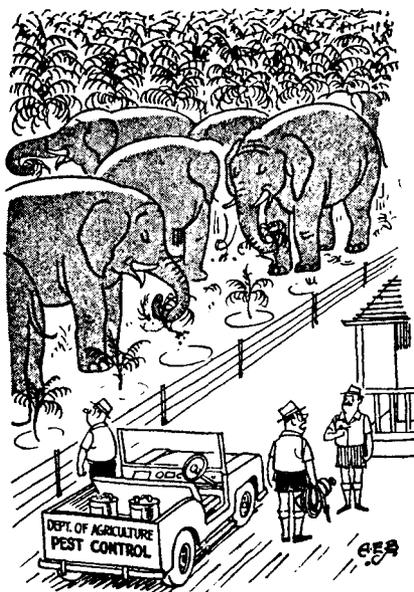
Grazing in Terrestrial and Marine Environments, edited by **D. J. Crisp**, **British Ecological Society Symposium Number 4**. Blackwell, 63s.

Grazing is generally used to describe the feeding activities of all kinds of terrestrial herbivores, but in this collection of 22 papers, grazing has been interpreted in its broadest sense and includes marine as well as terrestrial environments. Part I discusses energy flow in ecosystems; and provides both a background and a connecting link between Parts II and III which deal with grazing in terrestrial and marine environments. By using six well-chosen examples of ecosystems in which energy relationships have been described, Macfadyen is able to show that terrestrial ecosystems are characterised by a large amount of standing crop in relation to energy flow and by the high proportion of primary production passing not directly to herbivores, but into plant detritus which is slowly attacked by the decomposers. In contrast, marine environments have a relatively small standing crop of phytoplankton and the bulk of primary production is consumed directly by herbivores.

The inter-relationship between a grazing animal and its pasture is discussed by Arnold who shows how the relationship between yield and sheep density is complicated by the animals' behaviour, while Hunter discusses the relevance of home range behaviour among hill sheep to hill sheep management in Scotland. The palatability and selection of forage plants by hill sheep in Wales are considered by Hughes in the light of recent work on the chemical composition and nutritional value of the plants, and Martin shows how the analysis of faecal samples may be used to study the food preferences of sheep. The effect of man's activities and his grazing animals on natural grasslands in North America is discussed by Dix; Costello, Marr, Flook and Carr describe different aspects of range management in Canada and America. The eight papers on grazing in the marine environment illustrate the great variety of food relationships in benthic and littoral environments, many of the papers emphasising the difficulties which the marine ecologist faces in the study of planktonic organisms.

This is a stimulating and readable volume which helps to bridge the gap between several disciplines.

T. C. E. WELLS.



"Dammit, man, you MIGHT have been more specific."

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