

therefore without the freedom of ice-infested seas, those sovereign nations drop behind their competitors in Antarctica. The United States and Russia both deploy ample powerful shipping in Antarctica and even Argentina has an ice-breaker which gives her the appearance of power, and the capability of exercising it, which is impossible for the legitimate nations in their own Antarctic waters.

But in matters of fauna preservation and conservation the British Commonwealth nations in Antarctica have been admirably forward, as witnessed by the renewed abundance of elephant seals at Macquarie Island and South Georgia, after the depredations of the last century.

G. C. L. B.

REPTILES ROUND THE WORLD. By CLIFFORD H. POPE.
Routledge and Kegan Paul. 21s.

Here is a juvenile version of the same author's *Reptile World* published last year. He does not say for what age children it is intended but one might assume from eleven to twelve years old; older children should have no difficulty in following the text of the first book. The author has certainly tried hard to explain the principles of his subject in simple terms, nevertheless one cannot help feeling that the chapter on nomenclature is out of place. Why should young children be given long strings of scientific names which they cannot possibly master and which would not help them if they could? The chapters on habits, some of which are very short, could have been expanded and some of the nomenclature and zoogeography left out.

There are no photographs in this book but Mrs. Tee-Van has drawn some delightful pictures to illustrate the author's writing. May one justifiably wonder whether two and a half symbolic men really help us to picture the size of a large monitor or whether five symbolic snakes and five symbolic crocodilians really demonstrate their relative abundance in the tropics? On the other hand, the drawings illustrating reptile behaviour do succeed and this method of illustration could be recommended to authors of popular works who may only have indifferent photographs at their disposal.

After these general comments one can only make trivial criticisms. I do not know whether a Pteranodon could hover and I would like to see a boa throw nine close coils around a

thin vine. European readers may not like the use of the term "turtles" for all *Chelonia*. Surely if "crocodilians" is all right for all *Crocodylia* the "chelonians" would be better than "turtles", a term which, on this side of the Atlantic, definitely excludes tortoises.

J. I. M.

ANIMAL BABIES. By SUSCHITZKY. Thames and Hudson.
10s. 6d.

The name Suschitzky in animal photography is sufficient to guarantee first-class quality and these sixty-seven pictures, all reproduced in photogravure, are some of his best and most appealing. With the exception of three bird portraits, all are of mammals and they range from elephants, through Rhesus monkeys, to kittens and guinea-pigs. All are of captive or tame animals, and the majority were taken in zoos.

Suschitzky has an eye for a picture and these photographs show what comes from patient waiting, but many people would have been glad to have the technical details of each shot and perhaps a page or so about his general methods. The letter-press is confined to a two-page Introduction.

G. C.

WILD UND WILDSCHUTZGEBIETE WESTAFRIKAS.

By G. DENNLER DE LA TOUR.

This privately published volume in German is apparently the first attempt yet made to assess and compare the efforts towards game preservation in those African countries that border the Atlantic Ocean. Much work has gone into it, and the result is as accurate as the sources of information available to the author. Several regional maps show that scarcely any territory concerned is without its reserves or sanctuaries, but Dr. Dennler de la Tour obviously has to depend on official accounts for much of his material and it is hard not to infer that wild life reserves in some territories are little other than book entries.

It would appear that much is done in the French territories, while the failure of areas under British control to take effective action is all too well known. (This applies, of course, only to