the whole range of turtle breeding behaviour, seen as it were through the eyes of a young girl. The cycle is a remarkable one since the female turtle comes ashore perhaps eight times at fortnightly intervals to dig her nest and lay her eggs, about 150 in each clutch. Then she disappears into the sea, only returning three or four years later to repeat the process. Courtship, mating, digging of the nest, and the hatching of the vulnerable babies are all described. The pleasing photos do justice to the charm of Kay and her turtles alike.

This book has a significance beyond the intrinsic interest of its story. Dr. Bustard is deeply concerned both with turtles and with the native inhabitants of the Torres Straits. The Commonwealth Government of Australia is giving enlightened support to his efforts to establish turtle farming on a properly controlled basis in this area. His schemes are designed both to ensure the survival of large turtle populations and to bring prosperity and employment to the islanders. Conservationists will wish him and Kay every success in their admirable project.

A. d'A. BELLAIRS

The Search for Morag, by **Elizabeth Montgomery Campbell,** with **David Solomon.** Tom Stacy, £1.90.
Loch Ness Monster, by **Tim Dinsdale.** 2nd edition. Routledge, £2.50.

Mysteriouser and mysteriouser. I have always felt that Loch Morar was a better bet than Loch Ness for solving the mystery of the 'Loch Ness phenomena', but until reading this book I did not realise just how much better its smaller size and greater quietness make it. In two years the Loch Morar team have turned up as much, and better, evidence for Morag than the much larger Loch Ness team have managed to do in ten years for Nessie. But the central mystery remains. How is it that never once has an individual animal—for it clearly is an animal—died under circumstances that enabled any part of it to be examined by a zoologist. Until this happens—and even a small gobbet of flesh or skin would enable something to be learned—the water kelpie or whatever will remain in the shadows from which the giant squid emerged only comparatively recently.

For it is clearly quite impossible to do more than guess at its possible identity until this happens. As Desmond Morris pointed out some years ago, no solution has hitherto been propounded to which there do not appear to be insuperable objections. This very strongly points to the animal not being a member of the known fauna of Scotland and the Scottish seas, but also to it not being a member of the known living fauna of the planet. David Solomon grasps this nettle when he says, 'we must also consider the possibility that over perhaps (seventy million years) a creature has evolved to be very unlike its known ancestors, without leaving fossil evidence of its development'.

Tim Dinsdale has brought his book, one of the classics of the Loch Ness saga, up to date to the end of 1971. The first eight chapters are virtually unchanged, apart from the revelation that the anonymous witness was the late Torquil Macleod and the dropping of one unreliable witness. The last two chapters are quite new. He does not take us any nearer the solution of the mystery—nobody can without better evidence—but he does underline once more the fact that there is an unknown animal in the loch, and that to prove that the phenomena have inanimate causes, such as waves or mats of rotting vegetation, or are misidentifications of otters or salmon, requires many more intellectual contortions than to admit that, even in an age when men can walk on the moon, a completely unknown animal can exist in more than one loch in Scotland.

What the combined efforts of the Loch Ness and Loch Morar

investigations have done is to make an unanswerably cogent case for the scientific establishment taking some notice of the problem. At present their attitude is perilously near that of Cuvier, when he declared that no large animals could exist on the earth that were not already known to him. Since then we have discovered the okapi and the giant panda, to name only two.

RICHARD FITTER

Eryri, the Mountains of Longing, by **Amory Lovins**. Friends of the Earth and Allen & Unwin, £10.

Report of the Commission on Mining and the Environment. Obtainable from Land Use Consultants, 139 Sloane Street, London SW1, £1.25.

In Britain it seems that to declare a region a national park is to invite the attention of half the speculators and developers in the country. Most of the small fish among these can, we trust, be dealt with adequately by each park's Planning Committee, with the conservation societies playing a vital part on the touchline. But when powerful consortia are involved, as in the recent RTZ threat to Snowdonia, then the essential vulnerability of the parks is brought to light. In the event RTZ withdrew. But what a furore their coming to Snowdonia caused! What fervent protest meetings were held, what pages written! And of these pages none were penned with more fire, more poetry, more authority than those by Amory Lovins. A Welshman? Far from it. Lovins is a young American scientist who came to study at Oxford, went on holiday to Eryri (the ancient name of the Caernarvonshire mountains), fell in love with it, and, when it was threatened, rose with passion and powerful language in its defence. His book ranges easily from first class topographical description to an acute analysis of the national park's chief problems: increased traffic; excess of caravans; dearth of car parks; unorganised, toilet-less camping; litter; erosion of the mountain paths; climbing and hiking accidents; friction between farmers and ramblers; the private ownership of most of the land; local employment and unemployment; the proper use of natural resources.

So to the most telling part of the book. This is a powerful refutation of RTZ's repeated claim that they too are conservationists. Their case is that 'natural beauty and mining can go hand in hand'—the words are from Lord Byers, Director of Exploration for RTZ and Leader of the Liberal Party in the House of Lords. Of Lord Byers, Lovins comments: 'When he writes about conservation the right catch-words come out, but there is disturbingly little evidence that they express the right thoughts'. The book is spectacularly illustrated by page after page of colour photographs by Philip Evans, many of which are perfect lyrics.

It was with anxiety that we awaited the Report of the Commission on Mining and the Environment because all along the RTZ spokesmen had said that the company would drop its plans for mining in Coed y Brenin if the Report considered that this would be environmentally desirable. Then, anticlimax: the Report gave no decision at all! Had never been asked to, explained its Chairman, Lord Zuckerman. So it came about that, instead of being a document with crucial implications for the future of our national parks, it is little more than a useful summary of mining statistics, environmental problems, planning procedures and legal issues. The opinions it does manage to express are in the most general terms, and, not surprisingly in a report paid for by the mining companies, one of its inferences is that with modern techniques even the scars of a vast open-cast copper mine can be beautifully healed. But how many of us would believe that? In fact if the mining companies' motive in commissioning this Report