

that the American and European eels are environmental forms of one species, differentiated according to the place where they are spawned and developing differently according to whether ocean currents bear them quickly from the Sargasso to American coasts or slowly to Europe. According to this theory only the Americans return to breed, the European stock die trying to return to the Sargasso, but are regularly replenished from it.

I found this book very interesting and enjoyable. Parts of it are anthropomorphical but very seldom too much so for my taste. The illustrations are good.

C. L. B.

THE CHERRY KEARTON ANIMAL BOOK. Published by
Hutchinson of London. 12s. 6d.

When I was a child the name of Cherry Kearton was one to be conjured with in the realm of animal stories. With what pleasure, then, I turned to *The Cherry Kearton Animal Book*, a collection of stories drawn from four of the author's books and illustrated with his own photographs.

Would the magic still hold? Alas, I discovered that in the intervening years some of the bloom had rubbed off. I found myself being irritated by such small things as a leopard's grunt being described as "horrible", a female spider being given the title "Mrs." and pictures with facetious captions of chimpanzees in clothes. These reactions were, I felt, unworthy; particularly as most of the photographs in the book are delightful and we must be grateful to Cherry Kearton for being, as the blurb tells us, the first man to illustrate natural history books with photographs of wild animals in their natural setting.

Anyway, I reasoned, the book is intended for children, not crusty, exigent adults! Accordingly, I gave it to three children to read—an eight-year-old English boy, a ten-year-old Swiss girl and a fourteen-year-old Austrian girl. They were unanimous in their approval, all agreeing that they enjoyed the book because it was about "real animals", was "true" and was "easy to understand" without being "babyish". The children's verdict must stand. The book would make an excellent present for a child of either sex, almost any age and, it would seem, more than one nationality!

M. D.