

NO ROOM IN THE ARK. By ALAN MOOREHEAD. Hamish Hamilton. 21s.

Those of us who have for many years been devoting our energies to the cause of the preservation of wild animals may well, at times, be slightly guilty of over-stating our case—or at least be suspected of so doing.

This makes Mr. Alan Moorehead's book all the more timely and useful. The author is well known as an author and journalist and it is primarily as a writer that he has given us the absorbing account of his three journeys to Africa in recent years. He modestly disclaims any pretensions to being a naturalist, but his readers will agree that many works from the pens of those who do make such a claim do not necessarily carry more weight than Mr. Moorehead.

His is a very objective account of the crisis that faces wild animals in Africa, and he sees with his trained journalistic eyes the many complicated aspects of this very real problem. One has only to read the chapter that deals with poaching and ivory smuggling to get a fair idea of some of the difficulties that face those dedicated men, the Game Wardens and their staffs. The various references to the vacillations of certain Government departments tell their own tale; and the author does not hesitate to come down bravely on the side of the fast diminishing numbers of wild beasts now threatened with perilous reduction in numbers—if not actual extermination.

The whole book is vividly written, and not the least fascinating parts are those that give us something more than a glimpse into the lives of various African tribes and their customs. The illustrations are excellent, and in all, the book should find its way to the bookshelves of those to whom the future of wild animals means so much.

M. K.

DIE BISAMRATTE. By MAX HOFFMANN. Published by Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft Geest and Portig K.-G., Leipzig. 27 DM.

Great Britain's narrow escape from being colonized by escaped musk rats has been described recently by R. S. R. Fitter in *The Ark in Our Midst*. Looking back one can only be amazed that the authorities had failed to take warning from Central Europe, where a tiny handful of musk rats introduced to Bohemia in 1903 had multiplied by 1926 into scores of millions