

The Environmental Revolution, by **HRH The Prince Philip**. Deutsch, £4.95.

This collection of 24 speeches by the Duke of Edinburgh, made in many countries between 1962 and 1977, deals with conservation in a wide sense, including the air, the seas, the countryside, buildings and energy as well as wildlife. Nevertheless, as he says, his conversion came about by stages through photography, bird-watching, the Wildfowl Trust and the World Wildlife Fund, before broadening out into conservation of the human environment.

As the title suggests, the main theme is the extraordinary outburst of concern for the environment in very recent years in response to the often devastating effects of the technological revolution. 'From a situation of almost total and apathetic indifference we are suddenly confronted with a massive and passionate concern for everything in and to do with nature and the pollution of the environment.' He points out that this phenomenon has occurred virtually simultaneously in almost all industrially advanced countries (and, although it is not emphasised in this book, there have been developments in their way as significant in many third world countries, despite the pressures of poverty and population). But, Prince Philip argues, twin dangers attend this otherwise encouraging change in attitudes: complacency bred of early success and extremism which could so easily produce a backlash. Somehow the claims of nature have to be balanced against the claims of man. It is therefore vitally important to establish incontrovertible facts on which acceptable policies may be based because 'emotion without facts only makes enemies'.

The Duke of Edinburgh modestly disclaims originality for his views and says he is best described as a 'front man'. Certainly he has been in the forefront of the battle for conservation, and, unlike that fictional duke, he has never led his regiment from behind.

G.T. CORLEY SMITH

Mountain Monarchs: Wild Sheep and Goats of the Himalaya, by **George B. Schaller**. Chicago U.P., £17.50.

'If it moves kill it; if it doesn't chop it down'. George Schaller quotes this comment on the ancient maxim of the human species with the same detachment and understanding that he applies to his wide-ranging observations on animal behaviour. At the same time his lucid and beautifully written books have placed him in the forefront of those who are attempting to divert mankind away from this catastrophic course towards self-destruction. In this book he turns his attention to the large mammals of the Himalaya. During a series of explorations and surveys carried out between 1968 and 1975 he brought his extraordinary energies to bear on the hoofed mammals of the high mountains and their predators, especially the snow leopard. The main emphasis here lies in his behaviour studies of the wild sheep and goats, but in addition he examined morphology and size of body and horns in the different species, pelage colours, sex ratios, mortality, population dynamics, and conservation needs.

Research by other workers on the Caprini, notably chromosome studies, has indicated that the Himalayan region was the core area from which all species of living wild sheep and goats radiated. It is therefore fitting that Schaller's central theme should be the evolution of behaviour in the group and in particular of the urial, cited as *Ovis orientalis* but more usually named *Ovis vignei*, the wild goat *Capra aegagrus*, and the seemingly intermediate bharal *Pseudois nayaur*, often called the blue sheep. It is, however, a book that needs to be read through rather than dipped into, otherwise the diversity of topics covered makes it appear confusing, and this theme is lost sight of. The evolutionary