

matriarchal society: the female is a little larger, and dominates over males, and she reinforces her dominance by displaying an erectible organ which looks like a penis. No wonder it was once thought that hyenas were hermaphrodites! He describes the respect hyena 'clans' have for the territories of neighbouring 'clans', often abandoning the chase of a quarry that crosses the boundary; how they participate in border patrols, and mark particular grass stalks between neighbouring ranges; how they employ special anal glands for 'pasting' the grass stalks, leaving a powerful scent 'rather like the smell of cheap soap boiling or burning'.

His most famous discovery is that spotted hyenas are very much true predators, catching and killing their own prey, quite contrary to the popular view that they live chiefly by scavenging. Indeed he points out, with photographs to prove it, that it is more often the lordly lion that lives off the scraps of the lowly hyena than the other way round.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in what makes this fascinating animal tick.

PAUL JOSLIN

East African Mountains and Lakes, by **Leslie Brown**. East Africa Publishing House, Nairobi, Shs 21.00.

A Guide to Kenya and Northern Tanzania, by **David F. Horrobin**. Medical and Technical Publishing Ltd., Aylesbury. £3.35.

Although differing greatly in approach, style and content, both these books essentially combine business with pleasure. Each at its own level—in the one case broadly educational, in the other with an eye chiefly on the tourist—aims to instruct, readably and attractively, aided, for example, by the lavish use of maps and diagrams, and also illustrations of which the first has 45, some in colour, and the second 83, all in colour. On the whole, they are a refreshingly unhackneyed selection.

Readability, accuracy and careful planning are hall-marks of Leslie Brown's writing, and this 120-page paperback is no exception. He describes it as 'a vignette of things as they are now on the mountains and in the lakes of East Africa. . . taking into account the gradual natural changes that are inevitable, and hoping that the fate of both our mountains and lakes will not be one of ruin through man's folly'. This hope and the warnings that go with it are an underlying and recurrent theme, but are never allowed to become tiresomely didactic. The author is content to let his brilliantly perceptive picture of the current ecological scene, from the highlands of Ethiopia to Lake Malawi, speak for itself. Because the picture is deeply rooted in personal experience, it is perhaps a trifle blurred in places (notably in relation to some of the remarkable features in the south and south-west of the region), but this is off-set by the intimate and often very entertaining knowledge on which he draws. The result is a treasure house of significant observations, more particularly on the flora and fauna of some of the most richly endowed areas on earth.

Professor Horrobin's book, although dealing only with Kenya and, rather incidentally, those parts of northern Tanzania within easy reach of Nairobi, is more superficial. It aims to be 'a practical guide for either the local resident or the average intelligent visitor who is interested in everything but not an enthusiastic specialist in any particular subject'. The scope is, therefore, very comprehensive, covering evolution, prehistory and history of the land and its peoples; brief details of all the national parks and other places worth visiting, and interesting local species in each of the main

classes of animal; and topics as varied as sport, industry, travel facilities and health. This approach leads to considerable overlapping between sections and, therefore, repetitiveness, and it has obviously been hard to avoid the perpetuation of the more questionable as well as the reliable items from travellers' tales or modern touristic folklore. As long as not too much reliance is placed on points of detail, the Guide can be rated as a satisfactory introduction to the East African scene, with the special virtue of incorporating a well-balanced appreciation of the human element.

HUGH ELLIOTT

Ngorongoro—the Eighth Wonder, by Henry Fosbrooke. Deutsch, £3.95.

Within the immense crater of Ngorongoro, which rises from the arid plain of Northern Tanzania, is a Lost World teeming with life much as it was in late Pleistocene times. Urban man may enter here but only as a privileged spectator. How this magnificent relic of the 'Age of Mammals' has survived and its chances for the future are described at length for the first time by Henry Fosbrooke.

With experience of the area extending over 37 years, culminating in his appointment as first Conservator of the Ngorongoro Conservation Unit, his knowledge is detailed and firsthand. The book covers a wide scope in time and space. A meticulously recorded history of the area, much of it previously unpublished, is now collated to provide a lively account for the interested visitor and an invaluable summary for any serious student. Dr Leakey's great discoveries in the Olduvai Gorge, which is in the conservation area, are reviewed; the geology, the plant communities and animal inhabitants are each described from the author's personal experience and from recent scientific papers. Management implications are discussed at each level and a thorough cross-referencing increases the book's practical value. The pastoral Masai are shown to be equally part of the natural scene with a culture adapted to the ecological conditions—their nomadism reducing the over-concentration of livestock which would result from a more static life style. The author sees their active co-operation and good will as the key to the future of the wildlife.

Perhaps the chief interest of the book lies in its well balanced appraisal of how conflicts between humans and wildlife can be reconciled. While stressing the commercial benefits of tourism the author still looks to the aesthetic ideal as the long-term reason for the preservation of this area. The book ends on the positive note, that if the present policies are maintained in the Ngorongoro area it will survive unspoiled for posterity.

IAIN DOUGLAS-HAMILTON

The White Rhino Saga, by Ian Player. Collins, £2.50.

Not long ago a herd of twenty white rhinoceros arrived at Whipsnade from South Africa, a unique conservation experiment. Long years of failure suggest that this rhinoceros is unlikely to breed in captivity from a single pair—a puzzle yet to be explained—but now comes the welcome news of the first white rhinoceros birth from a mating at Whipsnade—the first successful overseas mating—the forerunner it is hoped of many more.

'Story of heroic achievement and adventure' is the Oxford Dictionary's definition of *saga*. There could be no more fitting description—'heroic' the operative word—of the trials and tribulations of the dedicated and devoted band, black and white, of the Natal Parks Board endeavouring to save from extinction this strange prehistoric pachyderm by effective conservation and