

Book Reviews

Men and Apes, by **Ramona and Desmond Morris**. Hutchinson, 50s.

The authors are to be congratulated on taming a Minotaur: on getting a cogent and coherent tale out of a mass of material available to them on the subject of men, monkeys and apes. This they have done by diligent research, long acquaintance with the subject, the use of plenty of arresting illustrations, and, above all, good writing. The page-by-page text and picture lay-out is anti-monotonous, the type-face pleasant, the book magnetic.

The first two-thirds of the book are primarily historical, and this means that we have essentially a compilation of what has been known and believed about monkeys and apes at different times, based in part on earlier compilations by such writers as Aristotle, Pliny, Gesner and Buffon.

The latter third of the book is concerned with modern studies and ideas about monkey and ape behaviour, and this is largely uncharted ground; at any rate while the landmarks are well known, the best course to steer through them has yet to be determined. Here, I should like to have seen more references to man, who features in the title, and more on the implications of modern primate studies for man. For example, Harlow's experiments showing self-inflicted aggression, lack of ability to form social or sexual relationships, and cruelty to their own infants, in mother-deprived rhesus monkeys, could have led into a consideration of just how reasonable are our society's regulations on adoption, authority care, the removal of infants from their mothers in hospital, and so on. However there is much originality in this section and all the different sources of data have been brought together with complete success.

On conservation, the book works by implication rather than by direct exposition of the problem. The work of Barbara Harrison with orang utans, with which all ORYX readers are familiar, scarcely gets a mention. On the other hand, considerable space is given to the ways in which monkeys and apes are exploited in scientific research, and the reader really does realise the hundreds of thousands of animals involved. This shift of emphasis is useful, as it gives a good idea of the extent of the opposition awaiting any person or organisation that tries, on conservationist grounds, to restrict the movement of monkeys and apes from their jungle to ours.

VERNON REYNOLDS.

Wild Animal, White Man, by **Bernard Grzimek**. Deutsch and Thames & Hudson, 45s.

The Director of the Frankfurt Zoo is such a vigorous self-confident, knowledgeable character that an uncritical reader might swallow whole chapters of this book without realising that sage observations on innumerable kinds of animals are sometimes smudged, rather than reinforced by the author's occasional lapses into downright believe-it-or-not journalism. The book gives the impression of a digest of a diary about trips to zoos, institutes and reserves in Russia, Europe and the United States.

The essays range from a rather tedious story, told in a series of chronological flash-backs, about the creation of the remarkable Askania zoo, on the Lower Dnieper, by Friedrich Falz-Fein, who must have been rather like the late Duke of Bedford, to shrewd comments about the pollution of the Rhine, the care of tortoises and the habits of polar bears, marmots, musk-oxen, beavers, sable and many other animals. Some of this is new; some of it will be well-known to readers of ORYX; most of it is related forcibly, and illustrated by photographs of an exceptionally high quality. The pleasure that comes from the text lies largely in stumbling over the