

ation observed in the cedars near Kilgard is due to an environmental factor that causes the plants to be dwarfed. — H. L. J. RHODES,

Botany and Plant Pathology Laboratory, Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario.

REVIEWS

Mark Trail's Book of North American Mammals. By Ed. Dodd, McClelland and Stewart Ltd., Toronto. 242 pp. 1955. \$2.35.

The author-artist of a well-known daily newspaper strip has produced a delightful little book profusely illustrating nearly all the larger and a few small mammals of North America. It is in no sense a complete field guide, but it will certainly serve to introduce the uninitiated to most of our more conspicuous mammals. There is a brief text for each treated species, filling the spaces between the sketches. Each species is drawn in many poses and the tracks are illustrated. The beaver and porcupine are the only rodents dealt with, and all lagomorphs, bats and shrews are omitted.

In general the information is factual and interesting. The purist might quibble over some statements, but very few can be considered seriously misleading. The statement that "the mountain goat is closely related to the pronghorn, for he is an antelope and not a goat" is unfortunate; for he is properly neither a goat nor one of the great old-world assemblage loosely termed antelopes, although in the same family as both. The unique pronghorn is in a family of its own.

The most surprising statement in the book is that in British Columbia the black bear is snowy white. I shudder to think of countless hunters streaming into British Columbia to collect snowy white hearth rugs without all the difficulties attendant on shooting a polar bear, unaware that the nearly white phase is restricted to Gribbell Island. In British Columbia at large the black phase is predominant, although cinnamons occur in some areas.

Despite these few faults and its incomplete coverage this book is excellent value and will appeal widely to hunters and all interested in wildlife. The text is simple enough to be readily understood by a youngster. — D. B. O. SAVILE.

Mitteilungen. Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen. (*Proceedings. Institute for Foreign Relations. Stuttgart, West German Republic.*)

We have received for review the March-April, 1955 number of the Proceedings of the Institute for Foreign Relations, Stuttgart, Germany. This is a special number devoted to the listing and the review of the cultural periodicals of the world. Approximately 900 periodicals of 72 countries are included. For almost all publications are given the name of the publisher and a brief description of the field of learning covered. The question of deciding which publications are to be classed as "cultural" is understandably troublesome. A wide variety of journals is listed here — those dealing with national literature, history, archeology, philosophy, current affairs and politics, art, music, the theatre, modern language and science reviews, natural history and even "Punch" and "The New Yorker".

It will readily be appreciated that a listing of all the cultural publications of the world would be an enormous task, and — as the editors point out — this listing is by no means complete. Information about the literature of certain countries was not available and the listing for countries included is not necessarily complete. Unfortunately, French language literature of Canada is not covered. The goal of the editors has been to make this number "like a burning glass in which are collected spiritual beams from all corners of the earth in order to kindle a flame in the innermost soul of the nations". This number contains a collection of information probably unique of its kind. Even a glance over the publications listed for a country does indeed furnish an impression of the cultural interests of the people.

The Institute for Foreign Relations was founded in 1917 and is devoted to the "furthering of spiritual exchanges between nations". An extensive library and archives containing



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