

over many of the most pictorial areas of Spain, including Madrid, Toledo, Segovia, Sevilla, Granada, Pamplona, Llívia, Montserrat, Barcelona, and the north coast.

November 25—New Zealand

Nicol Smith

In May of this year Chicago Natural History Museum opened a new hall devoted to the cultures of the Polynesian and Micronesian areas of the South Pacific. Outstanding in the hall are the exhibits of rare materials from New Zealand, including intricately carved objects made by the original inhabitants of the area, the Maoris. In this final program in the Museum's fall lecture series on travel and natural history, it is the islands of New Zealand that are explored by Nicol Smith. The country's scenery, its resources, its industry, and its people all are subjects of his roving camera. From the luxuriant forests to the mountains that provide a playground for skiers, to the maze of mountain lakes and valleys known as fiordland, "New Zealand" is sure to charm its audience with a brilliant procession of scenes. Many viewers will want to complete their "journey" to the islands by visiting the Museum's new hall (Hall 7, ground floor, east), where they may enjoy a closer look at the art and industry of the Maori people.

M. K. JINDRICH

Guide Kiri gives Nicol Smith a warm Maori greeting. From "New Zealand." The Maori council house in the background is similar to the one on display in the Museum's Hall of Polynesian and Micronesian Cultures (Hall 7). To greet Museum visitors, there stands just within the council house the life-like reproduction of a Maori chief, who wears, like Kiri, a colorful feather cloak.



FROM THE



BOOK SHOP

Living Amphibians of the World

By Doris M. Cochran. Doubleday and Co., Inc.: New York, 1961. 199 pp., 77 photographs in color, 143 in black and white. \$12.50.

This is the most recent volume in *The World of Nature Series*. The dust jacket claims that the book includes "... the most beautiful and informative pictures of amphibians ever assembled." For once I find myself agreeing with the superlatives in an advertisement. As a coauthor (with the late Karl P. Schmidt) of *Living Reptiles of the World* in the same series, I can testify that the photographs sell these books. Why else would so many people tell an author, "Your book is beautiful"? If the pictures sell these volumes, then Dr. Cochran's book should have an outstanding sale, for the photographs are both spectacular and esthetically pleasing.

The text prepared by Dr. Cochran, who is Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians at the United States National Museum, consists of a survey of the families of living amphibians of the world, a special section on the biology of amphibians,

and a section on the keeping of amphibians in terraria and aquaria. The survey is indeed world-wide and Dr. Cochran has attempted to discuss the way of life of not only common creatures such as the tiger salamander and bullfrog, but also many little-known groups of amphibians, such as the limbless, burrowing, worm-like caecilians.

Unfortunately the text is marred by many minor errors. The professional herpetologists will be aware of these mistakes but the lay reader will not. Despite this defect the general reader will find this a useful as well as beautiful book because the amount of information far outweighs the misinformation.

ROBERT F. INGER

Curator, Amphibians and Reptiles

How to Know the American Marine Shells

By R. Tucker Abbott. Signet Key Books (No. 375): New York, 1961. 222 pp., 12 color plates, numerous text figures. Paperbound, 75c.

Two innovations distinguish Abbott's pocket-sized volume from the seemingly endless parade of shell books appearing on the market. First, among the twelve well-reproduced color plates are four devoted to illustrating living mollusks in their natural habitat. Second, for the first time in any shell book that I am aware of, a digest of shellfishery laws is included. The amateur collector needs to be aware of the fact that in some states the collecting of *any* live mollusks, whether of commercial importance or not, without a license is forbidden by law.

Dr. Abbott, who is Curator of the Malacology Department of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, has managed to pack a surprising amount of information in his 222 pages. Included are 31 pages on the natural history of mollusks; 16 pages on collecting, identifying, and arranging a shell collection; six pages on how to organize a shell club; 135 pages of descriptions of 403 of the more com-

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Inger, Robert F. 1961. "Living Amphibians of the World." *Bulletin* 32(10), 7-7.

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