

The book is elementary and may be regarded as a first introduction to the subject. It is simply written and easily understood. For this reason it may be underestimated, for much good sense and experience are evident in its pages and even an advanced student may on occasion find good reason for further thought. The drawings are simple and concentrate on conveying information rather than elegance. For a field guide, there could have been more of them.

There is also a section on some methods of collecting data from the specimens. Here a more coherent explanation of the objectives in mind, and how bone samples may be biased and subsequently weighted to correct the bias, might have been helpful.

There is also a section on writing the report and interpreting the finds. Both are formal in their approach and it might have been hoped that Michael Ryder with his experience would have given a lead in this direction, for wisely he has not hesitated to do so elsewhere. On the whole, however, the author is to be congratulated on producing a book which is admirably suited to its purpose. At least there can now be no excuse for an archaeologist to know nothing at all about many of the objects he is digging up, or for the student of animal bones to produce the kind of perfunctory report which does no more than clutter the pages of so many publications.

E. S. HIGGS

Obituaries

Dr H. H. Storey

WITH the death at the age of 74 in Nairobi on April 5, 1969, of Harold Haydon Storey, East Africa has lost one of its most eminent and senior scientists. After serving as a mycologist in South Africa, where he did classical work on groundnut rosette disease, Dr Storey came to East Africa in 1928 to work at the East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. During the next forty years he published more than forty papers, mostly on virus diseases of plants in East Africa, but also on other disorders and on the genetics of disease. Although primarily a research worker, he did his share of administrative work, during the Second World War and, notably, just afterwards as research secretary in the agricultural section of the Colonial Office; in this capacity he played a prominent part in the organization of colonial agricultural research. Most of his scientific work was done at Amani and, subsequently, on the formation of the East African Agriculture and Forestry Research Organization, at Muguga. He was the first deputy director of EAAFRO and later acted as director; finally, having retired from administrative responsibilities, he continued his research work until his final retirement at the end of 1966.

Storey's work in the 1930s on virus diseases of tobacco, groundnuts, maize and casava provides the background to our present knowledge of these subjects. This was recognized in his election as a fellow of the Royal Society in 1946, when he was described as "one of the foremost workers on virus diseases of plants, who has made noteworthy investigations on the role of insect-vectors in the transmission of such diseases". Later he turned his attention more to breeding for resistance to virus and fungus diseases. In this connexion it is interesting to note that as far back as 1931 he recommended that the only sound way to combat coffee berry disease was to breed for resistance; if this advice had been followed it is probable that the disease would never have reached the epidemic level now found. But as far as Storey was concerned this work was merely a sideline. It is for his work on plant viruses, especially with regard to the original techniques he developed, that he will be remembered.

Correspondence

Who is the Piper ?

SIR,—May I add two important points to your admirable summary of the financial support of BIBRA (*Nature*, 222, 401; 1969). First, there are some industrial organizations which do support BIBRA generously, and which thereby subsidize others to whom food safety seems of little concern. Second, BIBRA has received much encouragement and financial assistance from the Nuffield Foundation over the past five years. This has resulted in a great deal of basic research in molecular biology, histochemistry and electron microscopy, the results of which are already facilitating the interpretation of toxicological studies, and indicating more rational experimentation for the future. Other support for this type of work has come from the Wellcome Trust and from the Ministry of Technology (in addition to the 150 per cent matching of industrial contributions).

Our present lack of total dependency on either government or industry has great advantages to both, but it seems that in this day and age one must be committed in order to succeed—at least financially.

Yours faithfully,

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Whales and Whaling

SIR,—For those engaged in the industry, whaling has never been a "quaint" business. This does not gainsay that in years past a strange romance has enshrouded man's pursuit of the behemoth of the deep: "His chimney's afire!" chuckled the heartless mate, when the spout, which had formerly been thin and white, reflecting rainbows in the late sunshine, became first pink and then thick with gouts of blood."

At a time when survival of the major whale species—save for the Sperm Whale—is severely endangered, however, it is grimly incongruous that L. H. Matthews and R. J. Harrison still celebrate whaling as a pleasant pursuit. In his review (*Nature*, 222, 44; 1969) Harrison writes of Matthews's new book, *The Whale*, "There is something for everyone, and the excitement, adventure and romance of whaling are conjured up on every page". The rest of the review seems as blissfully unaware of the perilous state of the whales today: "The history of the technology of whaling provides an opportunity to study a closely knit, international fraternity of brave, adventurous men who were out on the high seas for great rewards," or "Modern whaling is indeed free from personal danger, but it is still no joyride and still no 'cold-blooded assassination'."

No! Modern whaling is "cold-blooded assassination", for the whale has no more chance than a bull in the ring as he is scouted by helicopter, scanned by sonar, and run down by mechanized ships.

The decimation of whales is closely linked with man's own basic problem of survival. For reasons not yet clear we seem to possess deep within a fascination "with gouts of blood" that won't let go. This fascination is wedded—in this instance—to whaling which persists as a romantic notion as bloody artefacts from the age of sail continue to be snapped up at auction, and attention is only slowly and belatedly being directed to the intriguing behaviour of the whale himself. If the International Whaling Commission had been named the International Whale