

HUNTING BIG GAME WITH GUN AND CAMERA IN AFRICA. By  
T. R. H. OWEN. 1960. Herbert Jenkins. 25s.

The author for twenty-seven years was a Political Officer in the Sudan, where his last charge was a Province of 60,000 sq. miles, well stocked with game. Subsequently for three years he served with the Uganda Game and Fisheries Department. He has had wide experience of African wild life and he was an animal photographer rather than a big game hunter. Writing with authority, he is a shrewd observer who made the most of his manifold opportunities. The illustrations are excellent and their worth is best judged by the toil and hazards associated with their taking. Unusual pictures show the elusive whale-headed stork of the swamps, the curious maneless zebra, the dainty Chanler's (or mountain) reedbuck, the rare Mrs. Gray's waterbuck and the magnificent giant or Lord Derby's eland. Also outstanding are those of a pied kingfisher, a nightjar on its nest, and a close-up of a herd of buffaloes approaching on a broad front. The many graphic descriptions and amusing anecdotes indicate that life out-in-the-blue is not without its compensations and that the study of the wild creatures offers wonderful relaxation. Folk-lore and fancy, too, are discussed, and how right is Owen that "African imagination seldom creates the wholly unreal". The book ends with an eloquent appeal for better, more imaginative, wild life protection.

C. R. S. P.