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NATURE

(Continued from page 16)

courage. I also feel sure that everyone who reads this rather short account of "The Ape in Our House" will be anxious to learn more of how Viki progresses with the education of her genus Homo parents and will be looking forward to the publication of more about this family most eagerly.

Nature Notes

AN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY GARLAND: The Flower and Fruit Arrangements of Colonial Williamsburg. By Louise B. Fischer. Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va. \$3.75. This is a lovely book. Mrs. Fischer is an artist in her field, and the photographer, Thomas L. Williams, and the printer,

the Lakeside Press of Chicago, have collaborated with her with complete effectiveness. Of the thirty-two page plates, eight are in breathtaking color, and the rest in striking and handsome gravure. The text, which is well able to stand on its own feet, is a season-by-season narrative, with clear and concise directions, of how Mrs. Fischer goes about her devoted and skilled activities.

If there is today a Garden Book of the Year, here is the perfect candidate for the honor—or don't cut flowers count? One look at these delightful pages ought to certify their eligibility. Here is high pleasure and noble solace to soothe eye and mind in a troubled day.

—JOHN T. WINTERICH.

COOPERATION AMONG ANIMALS. By W. C. Allee. Henry Schuman. \$3.50. The author of this book is a distinguished American biologist who taught

The Criminal Record

The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction

Title and Author	Crime, Place, and Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
DAY OF RECKONING <i>John Garden</i> (Lippincott: \$2.75)	Dyke Farne loved his wife, Felicity—and so he killed her, pushing her into the gentle English river. When confession becomes his only personal salvation — will anyone believe?	A probing of conscience that keeps you reading; characters and situation believable, writing excellent; but the logic of the disbelief in Dyke's confession won't stand scrutiny.	Non-mysterious, but refreshing
THE MAGICIAN <i>F. L. Green</i> (Coward-McCann: \$3)	Against a background of postwar England's black-markets and general moral confusion, crime and punishment and a conjurer's ability to create hallucinations do a strangely confused duo-softshoe act.	Ingredients of a nightmare—and well-mixed and spooned out; but injustice is done book and author by presentation in "mystery" field. Perhaps half-baked as "mysticism," but very promising.	Worth reading
STRAW MAN <i>Doris Miles Disney</i> (Crime Club: \$2.50)	Insurance adjuster Jeff Di-Marco is rushed to Connecticut when hundred-grand-insured Linc Hunter is sentenced to die for murder. Striving to find evidence to save client—and money—Jeff meets strange cross-currents.	Skill and interesting tale here; but the tactic of giving away the mystery at mid-point lets suspense down with thud and turns plot into cops-and-robbers.	Half-and-half
MURDER IN BLACK AND WHITE <i>David Alexander</i> (Random House: \$2.50)	Phil Caselli, ex-fighter, was dead in Greenwich Village—but then he wasn't dead. A little man in a white suit was there—but then he wasn't there. Private-eye Terry Rooke has a tough time, including parrots, penguins, dwarfs, and his 300-lb. boss, T. Twotoes.	Amazing, merry mish-mash that goes down tastily for a while—until mental indigestion makes you long for the soda-mint of a little less whimsy and more straight narrative.	Notwithstanding—this boy is good

—KATHLEEN SPOURL.

for many years at the University of Chicago and who now, in retirement, continues his research, his teaching, and his writing at the University of Florida. An absorbing interest in what might be called animal sociology, or the nature of group processes on sub-human levels, has characterized his entire career. He contends that all animals, and not merely those who graze in herds or congregate in colonies, live at some time or another with others of their kind and that none is solitary. This fact has certain consequences, the most important of which, perhaps, is that cooperation and mutual aid, as well as competition and struggle for existence, appear on the biological level.

Professor Allee is excellent when he summarizes the researches—his own and those of others—which indicate the influence of the group factor upon the vital processes of animals. When he permits himself to extrapolate from the nip order in fishes, the pecking order in hens, and the fighting order in lizards to the class structure of human societies, however, and even further to the nature of warfare and of international organization, he is going far beyond his data—as he himself is candid enough to recognize. His “human implications” are not devoid of interest, but neither, unfortunately, are they very helpful to the human sociologist. His book, incidentally, is an amplified revision of his earlier, and most successful, “The Social Life of Animals.”

—ROBERT BIERSTEDT.

CHARLESTON GARDENS. By Lou-trel W. Briggs. University of South Carolina Press, Columbia. \$7.50. There have been Charleston gardens ever since there has been a Charleston. Much of the history of those gardens is documented; better yet, maps, plans, and surveys survive which show exactly what the original designers intended and accomplished. Mr. Briggs, on the basis of twenty winters passed in Charleston, backed by a lifetime in the field of landscape architecture, here effects a continuity of nearly three centuries by bringing the record up to date. The 200-odd plans and photographs give vivid proof that, where gardens are concerned, Charleston has never done a finer job than she is doing midway of the twentieth century. This charming and competent treatise will prove an admirable vade-mecum to the Charleston visitor and a source of pleasure and profit to either the armchair or the dirty-thumb gardener, whether his (or her) interest is bounded by a border of perennials or a hundred-acre show-place.

—J. T. W.

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