BOOK SHOP

N the Book Shop session on Wednesday,
September 5, Andrew Packard, of Auckland University College, will review two recent books on zoology: "Mammals of the
World," by Francois Bourliere, and "Living
Mammals of the World," by Ivan Sanderson.
Margaret Dunningham, of Dunedin, will talk
about three novels, "The Gallows and the
Cross," by Bela Just; "An Episode of Sparraws," by Rumer Godden; and "Your Daughter Iris," by Jerome Weidman.

a success is difficult to say. It's a novel which defies definition-it's modern, it's American, it's fashionably sordid, and yet it's as different from others of that type as music is from mud. Probably what makes the difference is that in the conventional muddy novel, everybody is either starkly neurotic or else painfully heroic about their deficiencies, while Miss Murphy's collection of lame, halt and blind don't care a hang about themselves. Even when the cellistheroine, Erica, is pushed off a hotel balcony by her crazy mother-in-law to be, it doesn't seem to be a tragedy, either to her or to anyone else. It's just one of those things, Miss Murphy implies, that happen to people, and we're content to accept the implication, and even to be quietly amused by it.

-Peter Cape

THE WHITE WILDERNESS

BORN ON SNOW-SHOES, by Evelyn Berglund Shore; Robert Hale, English price 16/-.

EVELYN BERGLUND and her two sisters grew up in a cabin north of the Arctic Circle, 280 miles beyond Fort Yukon. Her book is a matter-offact account of extraordinary hardships and adventures in fur trapping, the more remarkable for having been met with equanimity by three young girls. A series of family tragedies—the deaths of the three boys of the family, and the father, a trapper, becoming a total cripple through arthritis—left the mother and three girls, aged 13, 12 and 10, to fend for themselves. But instead of hurrying from the northern wilderness, the family joined forces with an old trapper. That was in 1929. For the next 12 years the mother, the old man and the girls ran 200 miles of trapline.

The laconic style of Born on Snow-Shoes intensifies the privations and dangers overcome. Each autumn eight cords of wood had to be cut, hauled and stacked; berries picked and preserved, caribou and bear shot and put in a natural deep-freeze for winter meals. Then the long winter of temperatures often 70 degrees below zero, when the girls "ran the line" with their dog teams, setting and baiting traps, loading the frozen bodies of marten, wolf and wolverine on to their toboggans. Spring was (continued on next page)

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—R.G.P.

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