

A diary of national conscience - stirring

Des Wilson's Minority Report (Quartet Books, 50p).

The Mountain People, by Colin Turnbull (Jonathan Cape, £3.50).

A Walk with Alan, by Tom Hart (Quartet Books, £2.25 cased, £1.25 midway).

The Revealing Lens, by Brian J. Ford (Harrap Books, £2.25).

My England, by seven authors (Heinemann, £2).

field. A leopard consumed the child, and, shortly after, this was caught and eaten by her tribe.

The mother was delighted. She was rid of the child, a burden to feed and to carry, and a satiated animal made an easy kill.

The dwindling Ik tribe, with a language akin to ancient Egyptian, are now reduced to starvation and foraging for food in an area too arid for crops.

Anthropologist Colin Turnbull lived with these now odd people who, unlike their fellow Afri-

cans whose family ties are strong, put out their infants to fend for themselves and cast out their old folk to die.

His book, **The Mountain People**, tells a disturbing story of a people who have lost family affection, friendship, love and even hope, all within a generation.

★ ★ ★

A Walk With Alan is the small, sorry tale of a drug addict from his days as a small child in leg irons at a children's home to his suicide at the age of 30 while in prison.

It is told through the eyes of a couple who knew him through all these tortured years.

Simple and stark, it strikes every emotional chord in the body and is a book in the best tradition of other social documentaries of our so-called civilised age like "Cathy Come Home" and "Gail is Dead."

★ ★ ★

The microscope has revealed a whole new universe and Brian Ford's **The Revealing Lens** takes us on a fas-

cinating tour of this unseen world which science has only explored on the fringes. The book examines the process of human discoveries and their implications for science and civilisation.

★ ★ ★

Seven leading children's writers have recorded their impressions of the respective regions

which they know and love best.

The result is **My England**, a collection of little gems, each of which contains a wealth of facts and information, touching on landscape, archaeology, local history and architecture, not to mention many other fascinating snippets, including customs, legends, dialects and local population characteristics.