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NOTE.—There are many subjects in Africa, such as Racial Characteristics, Labour, Disease, Currency, Banking, Education and so on, about which information is imperfect and opinion divided. In none of these complicated and difficult questions has Science said the last word. Under these circumstances it has been considered best to allow those competent to form an opinion to express freely in this Journal the conclusions to which they themselves have arrived. *It must be clearly understood that the object of the Journal is to gather information, and that each writer must be held responsible for his own views.*

NOTES ON A JOURNEY THROUGH EAST AFRICA AND NORTHERN UGANDA

IN February, 1902, I started on what proved to be an eighteen months' journey from Mombasa to Gondokoro, the most northerly station of the Uganda Protectorate on the White Nile. During this period I passed through a considerable extent of country of which there exists little or no record, and it has been suggested to me that a few notes on the possibilities of the districts, their native tribes and animals, might be interesting.

For the first part of the journey, as far as Stony Athi, I made use of the Uganda Railway. From here my route lay across the Athi plains and the Kikuyu country, which are too well-known to need much description. The latter appeared to me to be one of the most fertile regions I had ever seen, abounding in well-watered valleys rich in banana, sugar-cane, tobacco and mtama (a sort of millet) and other grain crops.

For the first three marches from Fort Hall, or, as the natives call it, Mbirri, towards Mt. Kenia, we passed numerous villages, each surrounded by a belt of cultivation, but beyond the last of them there was much ground in the neighbourhood of the streams which could be easily irrigated and highly cultivated. On nearing Mt. Kenia we had to cross a wide, grassy plain, which at that time of year (April), was peculiarly devoid of game. The lower slopes of the mountain were clothed in a far-reaching forest of fine trees, which we penetrated in search of elephants. The country is cut up in all directions by their tracks, made during the rains, but according to our Masai guides, they had now moved further north, and we only succeeded in finding one small herd of cows. On the edge of the forest bushbuck were plentiful, while among the boughs of the great trees were many troops of the black and white guereza monkey.

After leaving Kenia we made our way across the Likipia Plateau to Lake Baringo; nearly the whole of this district seemed to me to be an ideal white man's country, lying as it does at an elevation of almost 6,000 feet. It is well-watered and presents a most pleasing and undulating prairie-land, with little woods and copses from which to draw timber and firewood. The pasturage must be exceedingly rich, judging from the large herds of game which frequent this part, and the excellent condition in which we found their meat, while the railway is within easy distance, and there would be no great difficulty in getting either stock or produce down to it. The country, which was at one time thickly inhabited by the Masai, is now practically deserted, save for small wandering families of Andorobo, and the occasional passage of a raiding party through it, one of the latter of which I saw as they were returning from an unsuccessful attack on the Suk. It was on these plains that I first met with Heuglin's hartebeest. For some years this animal was known as Jackson's hartebeest, it being regarded as a distinct species, but recent research has proved that it is identical with that discovered by Heuglin, on the White Nile. The other varieties of game met with included giraffe, rhino, warthog, lion, serval, hyaena, blackbacked jackal, ostrich, zebra, eland, oryx, waterbuck, Grant's gazelle,



A CAMP BETWEEN BARINGO AND THE RAVINE STATION.



LIVE WATERBUCK.

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impala, Thomson's gazelle, steinbock, duiker, and dik-dik, while on the western escarpment I met with the greater kudu, mountain reedbeek, klipspringer, and leopard.

After crossing the Marmanet Hills, we penetrated the dense belt of forest which stretches along the edge of the escarpment, and then descended some 3,000 feet to the Baringo plain, through scattered thorn trees, and over rock-strewn ground. Lake Baringo is one of the chain which extends along the Great Rift Valley. Its waters are quite fresh even in the dry season, except where the mud from the River Molo is stirred up by the wind.

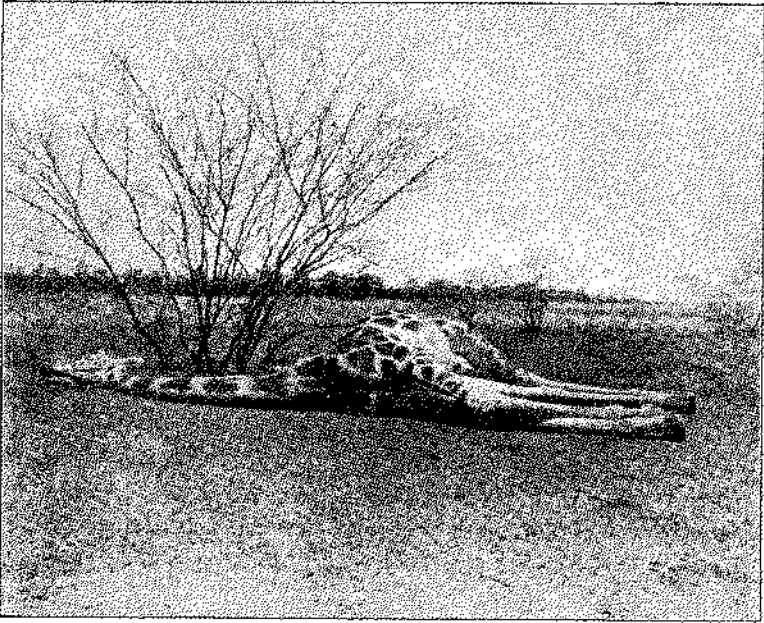
It was here that I first met with a pastoral branch of the Suk tribe, who had been induced to come southwards and establish themselves within touch of the Government Station on the eastern shore of the lake. Like the Turkana and Karamojo, the men of the tribe wear no clothing, which leaves them free to devote all their attention to their hair. Thus the elders dress into a sort of bag-shaped chignon, which, by the addition of the locks they have inherited from their ancestors, or shorn from enemies slain in battle, attains an enormous size, and often reaches nearly to the waist. They are tall, well-built men, armed with long, slender spears, and carry smaller shields than any of the other tribes I had passed through.

At the southern end of the lake cultivation could be very much extended, and in fact the inhabitants of Enjāmusi are now year by year increasing their agricultural area, which, as the result of almost incessant raids, had dwindled to nearly vanishing point. It struck me that this would be a very favourable spot for experimental rice growing.

The lake is full of hippo, crocodile, and fish, the latter being so abundant that the crocodile but seldom molest cattle and sheep, and I only heard of two instances of their attacking man. The neighbourhood of Lake Baringo is a sportsman's paradise, for, in addition to the animals I have already mentioned, buffalo are plentiful and afford good sport, but when I was there, the white man was forbidden to shoot a single specimen for any purpose. Although I and my men had previously seen giraffe, it was here that I first succeeded in procuring complete specimens of the five-horned species, originally

discovered by Sir Harry Johnston in the vicinity of Mt. Elgon. Of the four animals which he shot, in spite of the care bestowed upon them by himself and the late Mr. Doggett, a skilled taxidermist, only two head-skins reached England in a good state of preservation. This was considered insufficient material to distinguish it from the northern variety, with which the Uganda giraffe was therefore held to be identical.

Even in a country where giraffes are numerous, it is by no means easy to secure the master bull of a herd. The first thing to be done, as soon as camp has been pitched, is to build a raised platform of branches at the foot of a pole, which is some 20 ft. high. All this should be accomplished with as little noise as is possible among a large number of Swahili porters. The animal must be shot early in the morning, and not more than from one to two hours' journey from camp. The only chance of approach is while the herd are feeding, and even then, the sentries, which are always posted to guard against an enemy, must be avoided, and the others carefully watched for some time as they appear and disappear. The colour of the coat varies so much according to the way in which the sun strikes it, that, when there are several bulls in the herd, it is most difficult to decide which is the blackest, and therefore the finest specimen. The mere skinning will take from two to three hours, and when accomplished, relays of six men at a time carry the hide, slung on poles, into camp. Then commences the laborious task of thinning down the skin by cutting strips from the under surface, a process which takes some thirty men four or five hours to accomplish. As soon as this is completed, the body skin is spread out on the platform, the scalp and neck being hoisted on to the pole, so that the wind may play on both sides of it. In favourable weather it takes three or four days to dry, being watched by men told off specially for that purpose, so that, at the first sign of rain, it can be at once entirely covered by waterproof sheets. Each morning it has to be taken down, folded and replaced on the pole; otherwise, when thoroughly dry, it would be impossible to pack it, and in any case it makes an extremely awkward package to carry. To my great annoyance I found that, although I had paid a freight which was actually higher than the charges for a passenger's excess baggage, the journey to the coast on my



FIVE HORNED BULL GIRAFFE.



HOISTING GIRAFFE SKIN TO DRY.

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second consignment of skins, which should have taken days, took weeks, to the very serious detriment of them. However, owing to the skill of Mr. Rowland Ward, the first complete specimens of the five-horned giraffe, or, indeed, of any giraffe from British East Africa or Uganda, to reach England, may now be seen at the Natural History Museum at South Kensington.

From Lake Baringo my route lay through the ravine station and the Mau Forest to Mt. Sirgoi, a solitary rocky hill situated on the northern portion of the Gwas'engishu Plateau. The rock was surrounded for a radius of some miles by a region of meadow-like land, affording beautiful short pasturage, over which roamed herds of Heuglin's hartebeest, zebra, eland, topi and waterbuck, while reedbuck, oribi, warthog and ostrich, as well as lions, hyaenas and jackals were frequently seen.

This country, like Laikipia, was thickly populated in former times by Masai, who on their southward march, had found there, and driven out, a people whose houses were stone-built, and who were apparently an agricultural as well as a pastoral race. Owing to the almost entire absence of jungle, and the consequent lack of wood for domestic purposes, these districts would not be a suitable dwelling place for any number of white settlers, although the climatic and other conditions are most favourable. It struck me, however, as a country admirably adapted for large cattle or sheep runs, with the homesteads situated under the hills to the east, or among the jungle lying a day's march northwards. It was on this latter ground that I was able to complete the number of giraffe, which as a special favour, I had been granted permission to kill. Unfortunately the limit did not permit of my killing another cow, so that, at present, there is in England, only the one specimen, which I shot at Baringo, and which is now set up at South Kensington. In connection herewith I should like to point out that, until the British authorities can be induced to treat in a more reasonable spirit, those who are prepared to spend their time and money in investigating the fauna of East Africa and Uganda, Great Britain must be content to take a secondary position to Germany in zoological research as regards Equatorial Africa.

After some time spent at Mumias and in the thickly

populated Kavirondo country, I marched northwards along the eastern flank of Mt. Elgon, below the cliffs of which are concealed the homes of the cave-dwellers. I was fortunate enough to find some of these caves still inhabited, and, making friends with the elder of one of the settlements, I was able to thoroughly examine the dwellings and to take photographs of them and their owners. Having been led to expect that these people lived in a state of incredible filth and discomfort from vermin, I was agreeably surprised to find that, in this respect, the caves compared most favourably with the average native village. Although I and three or four followers must have spent a good many hours in and about the caves, none of us found that we had involuntarily added any domestic insects to my various collections.

Herds of elephants may be seen between Mt. Elgon and the plain: waterbuck and hartebeest are numerous, and the Uganda kob roams along the banks of the streams. According to the Swahili ivory traders, the lions which frequent the jungle in this district are particularly fierce.

Various small tribes living on the northern and western slopes of Mt. Elgon raise a considerable amount of cereals, with which they carry on an active trade with passing caravans, but towards the west the people are of such a treacherous character that great caution must be exercised in dealing with them, and in fact that side of the mountain is, for this reason, avoided when possible, by the sofaris.

From Mt. Elgon I circled round the western side of Debasien, where I again saw Grant's gazelle, for the first time since leaving the neighbourhood of Lake Baringo, and I then crossed the Karamojo Plateau to Mt. Moroto, where my journey over unknown ground began. The Karamojo I found friendly, and very willing to trade donkeys for cows and bullocks, and flour for iron chain and brass wire. Their country suffers greatly from drought, and it is only in favourable seasons that they grow a surplus of cereals. Away to the west, the Kimama country is said to be much better watered and to support a teeming agricultural and pastoral population, but the natives are intensely hostile, and have driven off all the sofaris, whether led by white men or natives, who have attempted to trade with them.

At the foot of Mt. Moroto I found a large valley cultivated by Karamojo, while the upper slopes were inhabited by an entirely different tribe called the Tepeth. The Karamojo consider that these people possess supernatural powers, and consequently leave them unmolested, even when the plains are suffering from drought, and the Tepeth, owing to the greater rainfall on the hills, have a considerable store of grain and good pasturage. It seems to me that a qualified linguist, who could spare the time to investigate the history of this people, might be rewarded by interesting discoveries. Their general appearance, the form of their houses, and the evident influence they exercise over the Karamojo, all seem to indicate that they are either the survival of some tribe of higher intellect, which inhabited the country before the advent of the Karamojo, or are the remnant of some Galla wave of conquest from the north-east.

It was in the valley through which the head-waters of the Nakokoh, a tributary of the Turkwel, flow, that I first found the lesser kudu, that beautiful smaller edition of the greater species, originally discovered in Somaliland, whose range was not previously known to extend so far west, although it had been found to stretch southwards to the Tana River in E. Africa. Elephants, rhino, oryx, giraffe, Grant's gazelle and zebra were also plentiful in the district, which was deserted by man, except for occasional parties of natives engaged in elephant spearing.

As we crossed Murosokar, the small party I was leading suffered severely from want of water, and while searching for it, one of the men perished. On our arrival in the Tarash Valley, we came across a Turkana war-party, awaiting an expected raid by the Deodosi Karamojo, from whom they had been borrowing a large number of cattle. They did not appear at all pleased to see us; in fact, at first, I was rather afraid that they would prove hostile, for although they had not previously seen a white man, they had doubtless heard rumours of the way in which their tribesmen had been forced to barter donkeys and sheep by the Austin expedition, who were the last Europeans to pass through any of their territory. To make matters worse, the Turkana are apt to confound any safari, which is not accompanied by a number of cows to trade for

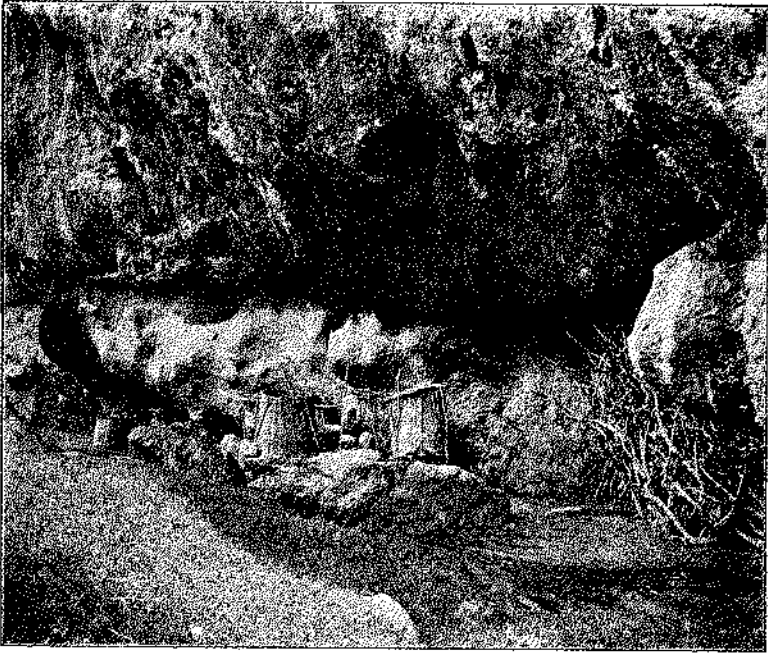
ivory, with the Abyssinian raiders, who, for the last few years, have made a practice of descending on their country, collecting ivory, and exacting toll on their flocks and herds, absolutely unchecked by the British Government. However, I fortunately managed to get on good terms with them, and during my march through their territory, I had no difficulty whatever, except that they refused to provide me with guides. All the Turkana I met on the banks of the Tarash were purely pastoral; there were no signs whatever of cultivation, the people living, like the Somali, entirely on the milk from their herds, and occasional feasts of meat, either from wild animals, or more rarely from their flocks. Their country extends much further to the West, than Col. Macdonald's map would lead one to suppose, as it joins Toposa slightly to the east of Mt. Marongole.

It was on the borderland of these two districts that, at the foot of Mt. Zunut, I found a wide tract of country dotted with elephants' bones, some quite recent, others crumbling to dust. My native guides, in reply to my inquiry, assured me that this was well-known as the place where the elephants came to die. A number of brackish springs in the neighbourhood were no doubt the cause which had drawn the sick animals to the spot.

After leaving Mt. Zunut, we passed through southern Toposa, which at that time of year was a difficult country to traverse, owing to the scarcity of water.

It was not until the Dodinga hills were reached that I again struck a country where the white man could live and prosper. At an elevation of 5,800 ft. and nearly 3,000 ft. above the plain below, I found myself amid grass-topped hills, separated by well-wooded valleys and running streams. It is a country in which herds and flocks could be raised, cereals cultivated, and fruit trees would flourish, in which, in a word, the white man could successfully farm, provided he had a market for his produce.

The Dodinga are a scanty hill tribe, not numbering more than 300 fighting men, but their name is so familiar to the native ivory trading sofaris, that it has been given on the map to a large extent of country over which they have no sort of claim. They had never seen a white man before, but, reason-



EXTERIOR OF CAVES, MT. ELGON.



A GROUP OF DODINGA.

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ing from the known to the unknown, their line of argument apparently was that, as the Swahili wore clothes, was a poor fighter and easily intimidated, therefore I, who wore still more clothes, must be even easier to bully. Acting on this opinion, they immediately proceeded to annex some of my property: this, perforce, led to retaliation on my part, during the course of which I had an opportunity of seeing what an abject coward the average Swahili is, although, when everything is in his favour, you might be led to believe that he is the greatest warrior on earth.

From the Dodinga hills we crossed the Kedef Valley, as the upper course of the River Tu is here called, which is marked by a fine belt of tropical vegetation and luxuriant pastures, over which giraffes, rhinos, warthogs, hartebeest, Grant's gazelle, bushbuck, oribi, duiker, baboons and troops of lion roam.

The next tribe which I visited, the Mielfej, had evidently had a certain amount of intercourse with the numerous ivory trading sofaris which used to penetrate the country from Khartum. They were in possession and understood the use of firearms, and seemed to be better able to estimate the power of the white man than the people I had last left. After two or three days' trading for flour, when they were assured of my honesty and pacific intentions, their chief told me that a deputation of Dodinga had waited upon him to concert measures for the cutting up of myself and my party, urging that I would certainly attack the Miellei, and rob them of their cattle and flocks. The determination of the chief to see for himself what my behaviour was, before falling in with their suggestions, spoke well both for his belief in the white man's fair dealing, and for his own intelligence.

Passing from one small independent hill tribe to another, I was surprised to find the number of modern firearms, including magazine rifles, as well as quantities of ammunition for both breech and muzzle loaders, which had been sold to them by ivory sofaris. This trade might prove very disastrous to white travellers, in the event of the tribes becoming hostile, and is one of the grave results of the present system of administration, which permits armed bands of native traders to

practically govern the country at their own sweet will, and yet does all in its power to prevent a responsible white traveller from visiting it.

All these hill tribes cultivate extensively, and possess large herds and flocks, and if it were not for continual tribal warfare, the country would be capable of producing a considerable surplus beyond the requirement of the people. The Latuka tribe held the largest flocks of sheep and goats which I had seen, but they were not so rich in cattle as some of the others. The villages were large, and the ground highly cultivated.

Here I was once more in a district which had been previously visited, after three months spent in traversing new ground. I marched round the northern side of Agoro to Obbo, and thence to the Nile, which I reached near the place where it receives the Asua.

After passing some time at the Uganda station of Nimule, I visited Wadelai and the Congo side of the Nile, and returned to England viâ Gondokoro and Khartum.

As a result of the twenty months I spent in East Africa and Uganda, I think I may say that our knowledge of the zoology and geography of some parts of the country has been slightly increased. I was also able to collect a good deal of information respecting the practical working of the ivory trade, and the administration in the remoter parts of the districts, besides coming into contact with some half-dozen tribes which had hitherto had no dealings with Europeans.

MAJOR POWELL-COTTON.

