

get to carrying incursions into the pockets of the book-makers, especially as, after the commission has been deducted, the *pari-mutuel* odds are nearly always better than can be had in the ring. Thus, for instance, at Auteuil last Sunday, Cotentin was at 10 to 1 in the ring, while the totaliser gave over 20 to 1.

Cotentin, let me add, is a son of Energy, whose stock are doing as well, in proportion, at "jumping" as upon the flat; and, up to the present time, their total winnings this season amount to about £23,000, thanks chiefly to the Grand Prix victory of Ruoil, and the frequent successes of Gouverneur, Energique, and two or three others. Energy's stock have won upon the flat about £18,000, and next to him comes Narcisse with £13,000, chiefly contributed by Chêne Royal; while the Bard is third with about £12,000, won by Béranger, St. Michel, Annita, Madeap, and a few more three-year-olds. Seven or eight other sires have already over £4000 to their credit, including King Lud; but Bruce, whose stock ran so well a year or two ago, has had very few winners on the flat this season, and Saxifrage, who has for many years been at the head of the list, has fared even worse. Both of them, however, have done well with their "jumpers," as Saxifrage runs Mourle, the sire of Fleurissant, winner of the Grand Steeplechase de Paris, a close race for first place with over £5000 to his credit, while Bruce is a good fourth, not so very far behind Energy.

It is more than probable that before this letter can be printed, M. Lefèvre, the founder of the Charmant Stud, near Chantilly, will not only have ceased to possess it, but that he will also have sold the handsome château and the fine property around it to M. Maurice Ephrussi. M. Lefèvre has for some time been such a martyr to gout that he has been unable to attend a race meeting; and, having gradually got rid of his horses in training, began to reduce his stud. He has now disposed of seven or eight of the best mares, including La Noce, dam of Le Nord, to Baron de Rothschild, who had an arrangement to take a certain number of yearlings from him at so much per head. The twenty-five others, together with the stallions Archiduc and Brest, have been sold to M. Jacques Lebandy, who is about forming a large stud at Villebon, where the late M. Charles Lafitte used to breed his horses, and the stallion Trayles, to whom nearly all these mares have been put to this season, goes back to Newmarket, having only been leased from Mr Warren de la Rue. There were not many mares of note in the lot thus transferred, though Placidia, a daughter of Lord Lyon, who won the Oaks in 1877, ought to have bred something good; but she has failed to rear many of her produce, and none of those which did run were of any use. M. Lefèvre, however, had more than his share of success at Chamant, seeing that he bred there, between the years 1874 and 1878, three winners of the French Derby in Insulaire, Zut, and Beauminet, the two former being sons of Green Sleeves and Regalia; Chamant, winner of the Middle Park and the Two Thousand Guineas; St. Christophe, winner of the Grand Prix de Paris; Verneuil, who won the Gold Vase, Gold Cup, and Alexandra Plate at Ascot as a four-year-old; Camélin, who ran a dead heat for the Oaks with her compatriot Enguerrande after winning the One Thousand Guineas; Versigny, who won the French Oaks; and Oceanie, one of the best two-year-olds ever seen. All of these horses, excepting Beauminet and Versigny, carried the colours of Comte de Lagrange, who had an arrangement to take all the Chamant yearlings; and with mares such as Regalia, Formosa, Green Sleeves, Araucaria, Reine, Lady Elizabeth, Weatherbound, and Placidia in his stud, to mention only a few of the most famous, it would have been a wonder if some of them had not turned out well.

The entries for the Grand Prix de Paris of 1894 are to be kept open until next week, for the convenience of English breeders and owners who may be selling and buying at Newmarket; but the nominations for the Prix de Diane and the Prix du Jockey Club have closed, there being 129 for the fillies race as against 117 for the Derby. This is contrary to what usually occurs, there having been only 92 entries for the Prix de Diane this year, and 111 for next year, as against 120 and 132 for the Prix du Jockey Club. The 129 yearlings engaged in the Prix de Diane include M. Aumont's Simone, by Fra Diavolo, the first produce of Ténébreux; Baron de Rothschild's La Nidvre, by Tristan—La Noce, sister to La Nord; M. Maurice Ephrussi's Mareala, by Tristan—Madeira, half sister to Alicante; Baron de Schickler's Bonaparte, by Atlantic—Porplexité, the dam of Fitz-Roya and Chêne Royal; and M. Henri Say's Bérangère, by the Bard—Malibran, sister to Béranger; while in the Prix du Jockey Club Baron de Rothschild has eight nominations; M. Lupin, whom one is glad to find still keeping up his connection with the turf, and Vicomte d'Harcourt, seven; and M. Aumont and M. Henri Say six each; while, if M. Edmond Blanc has only three—they include Gouvernail and Risquetout, half brothers to Gouverneur, Révérend, and Rueil, by the Bard and Retreat. Baron

de Rothschild, Harvey, the late Hon. Guy D'Arny, Mr H. C. V. Hunter, Mr T. W. H. Greenfield, Mr B. Gedde, Mr F. J. Jackson, Mr Astor Chanler, Mr R. P. Carroll, Dr Abbott, and Count Teleki. But having been hastily identified as Oryx beisa, and so called for several years, its specific distinctness has until recently escaped notice. During his last visit to London the late Sir Victor Brooke examined the specimen referred to with me, and our discussion was adjourned to enable further comparison with more examples of Oryx beisa. But before that could be effected, to the infinite regret of all naturalists and sportsmen, his untimely death was announced. Thus the opinion of one of the best authorities on deer and antelopes was lost.

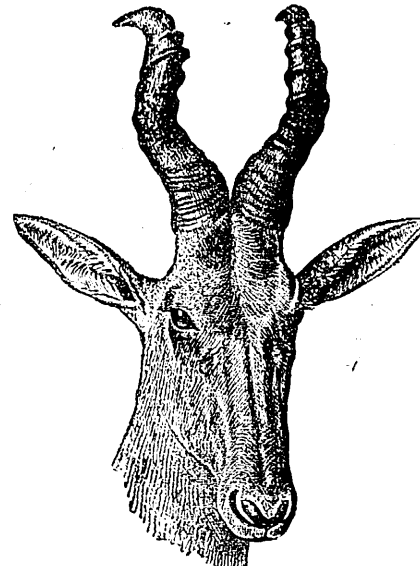


Fig. 2. HEAD OF JACKSON'S HARTEBEESTE (*BUBALIS JACKSONI*).

A second species discovered in like manner is a hartebeeste which has been named *Bubalis jacksoni* by Mr Thomas. It was collected in Uganda by Mr F. J. Jackson, who directed my attention to it. In general form and colour it is very like the South African *Bubalis caama*, figured in the *Field*, June 6, 1891. Its horns curve in much the same way, though not so sharply, as will be seen on reference to the annexed cut. But its distinguishing features are the uniform colour of the face; *Bubalis caama* has black face markings, *Jacksoni* none at all. In this respect the new species resembles Coke's hartebeeste, the head of which is figured by Sir John Willoughby in his volume on "East Africa and its Big Game" (pl. 1, fig. 1), and which also has no face markings. But a comparison of the two heads will show a considerable difference in the character of the horns. In Coke's hartebeeste the horns diverge laterally, in Jackson's species their direction is vertical and backwards.

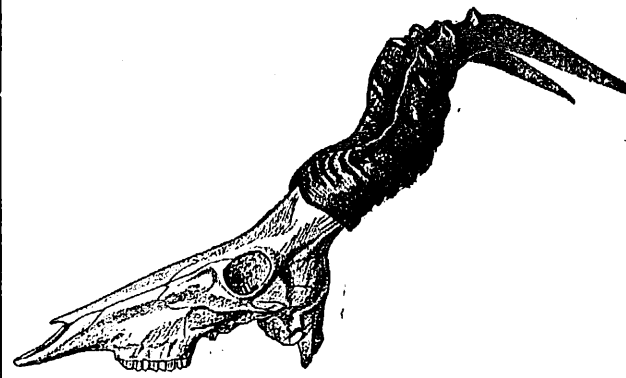


Fig. 3. SKULL OF JACKSON'S HARTEBEESTE (*BUBALIS JACKSONI*).

difficult to name would refer them to experts on their return home, they would lessen the chances of being forestalled in the discovery of new species. It is with the view of clearing up confusion in regard to the species here figured that I venture to send you these notes for publication.

166, Piccadilly, London, W.

ROWLAND WARD.

THE WHITE RHINOCEROS (*RHINOCEROS SIMUS*).

SIR.—Mr Lydekker's recent "Notes on Rhinoceroses Ancient and Modern," have been extremely interesting to me, as no doubt to other readers of the *Field*. More especially his notes on the white or Burchell's rhinoceros, a species now unhappily extinct, or all but extinct, are for naturalists full of a melancholy interest.

The enormous white rhinoceros, distinguished mainly from its black cousin of Africa by its vaster size, its more sluggish habits, its prolongate forehorn, immense head, and blunt upper lip, adapted so evidently to its grass eating habits, is now, I fear, from the reports of Mr F. O. Selous and other hunters, extinct, or on the verge of extinction. The beautiful true quagga (*Equus quagga*), another very interesting form, has been (as I pointed out two or three years back) the first to disappear from the once crowded natural game preserves of Southern Africa. The monstrous white rhinoceros seems destined to stand second on the list of a vanished fauna.

After coming down country last year, I stayed some few weeks at Cape Town, during which time—thanks to the kindness of Mr Roland Trimon—my friend Mr G. E. Yale and I photographed several natural history specimens in the Cape Town Museum. Among these was the head of the last white rhinoceros brought down country. This head belonged to an animal shot after much trouble and search by Mr Selous in Mashonaland some ten years since; and, it is undoubtedly the last (almost the only specimen) now left to us of an exceedingly rare and singular form. The forehorn is not so straight or so prolonged as in some specimens obtained in bygone years, when this animal wandered over nearly all South Africa; but, on the whole, the head is a good and a typical one. Mr Lydekker gives the extreme recorded length of such a horn as 57in. over the curve. This is an excellent specimen, undoubtedly, and will now probably never be beaten. Yet in the old days, when *Rhinoceros simus* abounded, and every chief's ambition was to possess a long kerrie or staff fashioned from the forehorn of this beast, some of extraordinary measurement must have been in existence. There are still here and there in South Africa, in remote places, such kerries, but they are scarce, and the traders and hunters have had the pick of them. Probably at this day in England, in forgotten places and remote corners, some of these staffs are lying away in forgotten obscurity.

It has been the fashion to assume, since Cornwallis Harris's day, that the white rhinoceros was never found south of the Orange River. Undoubtedly in modern times (seventy or eighty years past) it was not; but there has always been a tradition, supported by Barrow and other travellers, that the mighty quadruped once wandered and fed in the open grassy wastes of Great Bushmanland, as well as in the country north of the Orange River. This tract is very similar in character to the open plains of the South Kalahari and other adjacent districts; the Orange River at certain seasons is easily fordable, and there seems to be no sound reason, other than a purely captious geographical distribution, why the white rhinoceros should not have formerly grazed in this part of Cape Colony.

The enormous bulk and height of this animal may be partly gauged if it be remembered that specimens were formerly slain standing more than 6ft. high, measuring between 18ft. and 19ft. in length, and possessing a bulk in proportion to these measurements. Even the African elephant is dwarfed by comparison, although of course standing much higher at the shoulder.

Notwithstanding its vast bulk, the white rhinoceros could display upon occasion immense quickness and speed, as the great hunter and companion of Livingstone, Mr Oswell, and others can testify. As far as can be at present learned, the white rhinoceros has been exterminated, even in its last strongholds in North-east Mashonaland. In Ngamiland and the North Kalahari region, where formerly it was plentiful, it has been, as I ascertained while hunting in that direction in 1890, finished for some years past. It seems to be quite clear that no specimen has ever been known north of the Zambesi.

Probably the head of Mr Selous's last specimen is also absolutely the last relic of the once abundant *Rhinoceros simus*. It is, indeed, a thousand pities that no complete skin of the entire animal has ever been brought to Europe.

H. A. BRYDEN.

SPORT IN FRANCE.

THE RACING which takes place in France during the interval between the Grand Prix and the first appearance of the two-year-olds in the beginning of August is never very interesting, and it has been less so than usual this year, as one or two of the best provincial meetings, such as Beauvais, have been crushed out of existence by the undue predominance of fixtures around Paris, the Minister of Agriculture having failed to use the pruning knife so freely as he should have done. It is to be hoped that before another season comes round he will have done so, for it is perfectly ridiculous to allow racing to take place once, and in many cases twice, a week at places like St. Owen and Maisons-Laffitte, while it is for the French Steeplechase Society to consider very seriously whether the Auteuil meeting should be so prolonged. There have been nine days' racing there since the Grand Steeplechase was run for on Whit Sunday, and the fields have, with few exceptions, been very small, and the attendance extremely limited. The best plan would be to confine this meeting to the alternate days of the Grand Prix week, and to offer a few good prizes to be run for at provincial meetings, which would then, perhaps, take a fresh lease of life. This is the view taken by unprejudiced persons who regret this undue concentration of sport at two or three places, to the detriment of the country fixtures; though it must be added that Auteuil, which closed its gates last Sunday until November, wound up well, the fields being much larger than they had been upon any previous occasion. The race which attracted the most runners was the Prix Vivienne, a hurdle race, for which fourteen three-year-olds came to the post, including M. Camille Blanc's Noctambule and M. Jacquemin's Cotentin, both of whom had incurred a 15lb. penalty for previous successes. This did not prevent them from finishing first and second, and Cotentin, who had succumbed to Noctambule when they met before, finished first by a length. There is every probability that these two colts will develop into good hurdle racers, and two or three others have run very well; so that we may hope to find the young generation an improvement upon that which preceded it. Those who remember what a nasty fall young Mr Wright, who rides a good deal at Pau in the winter, had at St. Germain this spring, will be glad to hear that he is in the saddle again, and on Sunday won his first race at Auteuil, this being a steeplechase in which he had against him two of the best gentlemen jockeys of the period. The principal event of the day was the Prix St. Sauveur, a £600 steeplechase, which fell to the share of Silversmith, a good but somewhat unlucky horse, the mention of whose name reminds me that he was one of the horses belonging to M. Latens, who was warned off last year in consequence of the running of his mare Hollandaise at Pau. His horses were all sold, Silversmith being of the number; but the disqualification has just been removed, in compliance with the request of the Pau stewards, who have thus consented to eat humble pie. It is probable, however, that the French Steeplechase Society will shortly issue another decree of disqualification against the owner and trainer of a horse called Galantin, who has been running in so suspicious a way that the jockey Brockwell, who rode him, has already had his licence taken away.

Those who are anxious to procure the re-establishment of "list-betting" would have one believe that these scandals are due to the *pari-mutuel*; but that is, of course, interested pleading, and there certainly have not been more incidents of this kind than there used to be, if as many. There is, however, a great deal too much betting, both at the *pari-mutuel* and with the bookmakers, and the 2 per cent. deducted from the takings of the former for charitable purposes amounted to £39,000, which has just been distributed by the commission appointed to deal with it among fifteen philanthropic institutions in Paris and the departments. A sum of £16,000 has been voted to one of the Paris schools for the blind, and £2200 to a lying-in hospital at Rueil, while £4000 goes to commence the building of a convalescent home at Bagneres-de-Luchon in the Pyrenees. This represents, at 2 per cent., investments to the amount of nearly two million sterling: and if people will insist on

de Schickler has entered Carabiniero, a brother to Caballero, who was considered better than Chêns Royal and Fra Angelico, but met with a nasty accident, and Estang, a brother to Ermak, stands in the nomination of M. de Monbel.

The second lot of horses which have been running in the Réunion coaches between Nice and Cannes during the winter, and since then between Paris, Poissy, and Maisons-Laffitte, were sold at Chéri's mart last Saturday, and although they did not realise such a high average as those sold the week before, this is not to be wondered at, seeing what hard work they have got through since the month of January. Still, a total of £2300, and an average of about £56, is not bad, and it is satisfactory to find that there is so good a demand for coaching horses suitable for general use. The new coach built for Mr Tiffany, and made to be a precise reproduction of the old English mail coach, started from Paris on its "trial trip" yesterday (Tuesday) morning at six, the distance (130 miles) being done in twelve hours. There were only four passengers, Mr Tiffany himself, Mr Gordon Bennett, Mr Saffern Tailer, and Mr Higgins, and they are to pass the night at Trouville, and then return to Paris.

C. B. P.

THE NATURALIST.

NEW AFRICAN ANTELOPES.

WITHIN THE LAST FEW MONTHS I have had the good fortune to recognise three new species of African animals under conditions that are noteworthy. Amongst the vast number of heads and skins that come to me for preservation, particularly from Africa, I frequently discover many points that have not been noticed by the owners of the specimens; and now and then the discovery is of greater importance, inasmuch as it leads to the recognition by experts of a new species. For example, looking carefully over a collection of antelopes from Kilimanjaro and Masailand, I found what appeared to me to be a new species of *Oryx*, and so it proved to be; for though at first sight it resembled *Oryx beisa*, a comparison showed many points of difference, as will be seen in the annexed figure. The long tufted ears, which suggested to its describer, Mr Oldfield Thomas, the specific name *Oryx callotis*, are particularly noticeable. It differs, moreover, from other species of *Oryx* in the

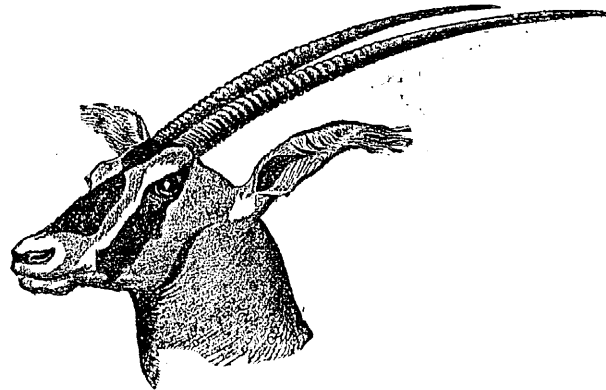


Fig. 1. HEAD OF ORYX CALLOTIS.

General colour of the skin, which is much browner than that of its congeners, particularly on the head. So far as at present known this antelope is found only in Masailand and contiguous regions. The example of which the head is now figured came from Kilimanjaro, and was described by Mr Oldfield Thomas, F.Z.S., at a meeting of the Zoological Society in March last; the type being now in the national collection at South Kensington. I may add that this species has been several times shot in

A third new form, perhaps only a variety, is a wildebeeste, or gnu. It is a fine creature, closely allied to the South African brindled gnu (*Connochoetes taurinus*), but having the beard white, instead of dark brown.

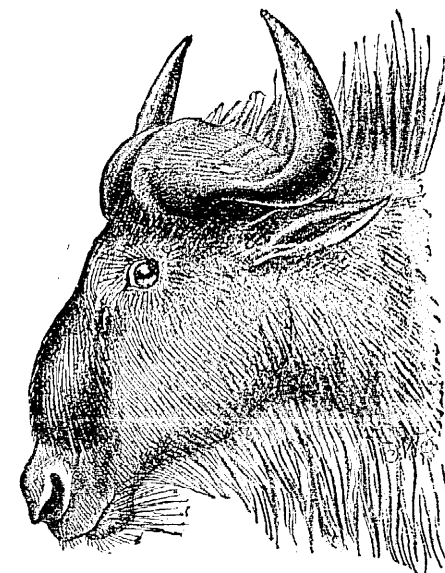
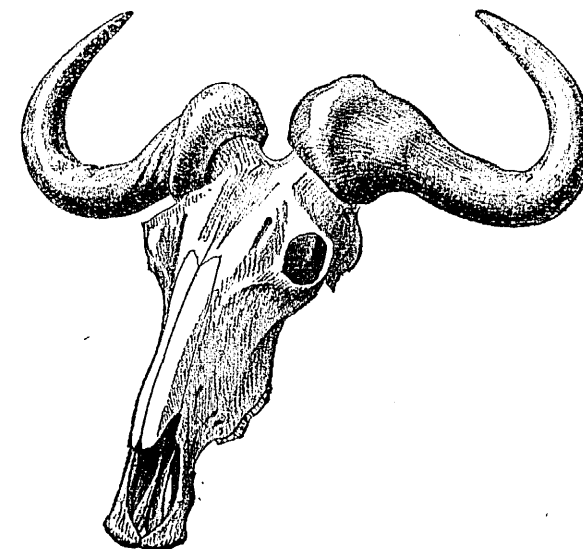
Fig. 4. HEAD OF WHITE-BEARDED GNU (*CONNOCHOTES ALBO-JUBATUS*).

Fig. 5. SKULL OF WHITE-BEARDED GNU.

It is commendable that in so short a space of time as six months so many new forms should have been brought to light, it may be said, through the enterprise of English sportsmen, to whom naturalists are so much indebted for discoveries in Africa. How many other