bright brown colour, which gives the plant quite an attractive appearance. It thrives well in planty of beat, but does not appear to be much the worse if given cooler treatment. The geous oxalis contains over \$50 species, many of which are in cultivation. They are fairly equally distributed over the temperate and tropical regions of the globe. The fixely roots of 0, habovest, a tall growing species, are used as an article of food in Bouth America.

regions of the game. And exact roots to the theorems a ten-growing species, are used as an article of food in South America.

PROPAGATION OF SCHADOPTYS VERTICIMATA.—A
Rushing gardener has recently written a note to the German
Gartner Zeitung describing a little known method of increasing
this popular coulier. Usually 8. verteillats is only propagated
by means of seeds, and indeed in the gardening books this method
at the only non mentioned. But the seeds are casity; usey do not
germinate as readily as most conferra, so that gratting is a great
deal more advantageous. The grafted plants take easily, and
after four months are stronger than three-year-old seedlings. At
the beginning of March young shouts are grafted on piece
of the root of the same species, which are then potted singly
is amall post, and placed in a frame with a temperature of
frum 60 to 65 F. As soon as they have taken they may be
hardened off, and y the beginning of July may be planted out in
the nursery. At least 90 per cent, of the plants may be expected
to grow if treated in this way. It is to be hoped that this method
will be adopted by English nurserymen, so that this beautiful
Japanens tree may become as plentiful and cheap as it Concress
to be.

to be SGA RAMERIAR.—This charming Chinese rose, with its clusters of pretty double yellow fewers, has been much admired from the gallery in the Temperate Houses at Kow during April. when, trained against a piller, it has grown about 46ft in beight with a clean stem of \$5th, branching out above and forming a hirp head 19ft in diameter. Some of the shoots are from 6th to 10ft. In length, each carrying between their and forty clusters of flowers, each cluster consisting of a way to the control of the store of the shoots are from 6th or own, each cluster consisting of a way to see a refer of the foreun, each cluster consisting of a way to the store are from 6th or own, each cluster consisting of the maken may are of rapid around the property of the presence of the property of the presence of the store of the should be decided to the store of the should be decided to the store of the should be decided to the store of the should be seen or the store of the should be decided to the store of the sto

for sometimes known as the ross without a therm.

ORSANDSTAL FAUT TARES.—In your very interesting article of April 55 all the apples camerands as bearing beautiful flowers are also first-claus as fruit producers, a combination which hashes them truly valuable. Although I cannot claim the same high rank for the old apple called French crab, it is unequalited for fruction, size, and other of bloom which is a deep rich ross, and the admiration of everyons when in flower, quite cellpaing, and the admiration of everyons when in flower, quite cellpaing, and the admiration of everyons when in flower, quite cellpaing, and the submiration of everyons when in flower of large fruit, which can be gathered early and always sell well. For home consumption the fruit has the advantage of hanging a long time on the tree, and cooks well, but of a dark brown colour. This shalls, notwithstanding which, it is a variety I would urge all lowers of beauty to plant.—Norm Environment. [A reproduction of a photograph representing a tree of French crab or Frume & French and brink in the Gardener's Chronicle of April 18. It is there stated that the order of a darkable one for culture, being then as frush and brink in dearner as trule of other Trench coals to be syncaryones with Sentence and the state of the coalse, and states that the fruits have been known to know years—En.]

CHERICIAL FRETHIERES.—Commaratively for gardeners

Winter Greening, and states that the fruits have been known to keep for two yearin—En.]

CHEMICAL FREFULEERS.—Comparatively few gardeners possess much acquaintance with the principles of manuring, and no doubt its the uninformed who are largely responsible for the non-decimal tis to the uninformed who are largely responsible for the number and the prospective of the venders of compound chemical manures. Certain of these possess a thoroughly established good reputation based upon results, but they are commonly so highly priced as to mate their statements but doubtfully renumers dress of the second statement in the control of the prospective. Unfortunately, too extensive use but doubtfully renumers dress guarantee of good quality, a often accepted as being in itself as guarantee of good quality, and the importunities of against to commend them. The difficulties in the way of compounding a manure which is suitable for a great variety of crops (as is so often claimed) are not sufficiently taken into account, Plants and soils vary very prestly in their manurial requirements; accordingly, if it meets overly that of requirement it; as almost inevitable that a manure should comisian consiliuncis that are not needed by the plants they have a stimulate, and to purchase these is water. A practice which is now growing in vegus among manufacturers has a good chal to extend the light of the command it; this is to empound manures specially adapted for extrain crops, such as tomations postones, chrysanthemman, Ac. The califerator upon a considerable scale would certainly do will to acquire the knowledge requisite for the successful malting up of artifical manures for his own use. We have a good cytain or decition of the best knowledge requisite for the successful malting up of artifical manures for his own use. We have a good cytain or decime of these are terribly expensive. It is doubtfully if their certain these are terribly expensive. It is doubtfully if their certa in the service of the successful malting the content of th

raw over amounts to as much as 50 per cent of their retail price.

—C. H.

WINTER FLOWERING SWEET PRAS.—Although these layer boen little beard of in this country, considerable attention is being paid to their production in the United States. Their origin is paid to their production in the United States. Their origin is matter of dispute. It is uncertain whether the early single-matter of dispute. It is uncertain whether the early single-matter of dispute. It is uncertain whether the early single-matter of the production of the single-matter of the production of the single-matter of the single-dependent of the single-dependent of the usual type will not come into flower until the following April, whereas those early-flowering sorts marstably commance to bloom when quite small, an August sowing flowering in October. There are now strains of these flowers in England, Germany, Algeria, and the United States. The varioties most popular in the last named country are Christmas plais, Carlstmas are of Florence Denzer (white), hirs Alemader Walkson (lavender), and Christmas Captain (gurple). There are moved probably prove remunerative to those whe are carlless to the flower of the single single states are obtainable. Their cultivation would probably prove remunerative to those whe are carlless to the flower of the single singl

The Scolety for the Destruction of Vermin.— A declaration of policy and an appeal for subscriptions have jour been issued by this society. In addition to rats, mice, sparrows, ticks, faces, mecyations, and files are be included in the scope of the society's operations, the four law be included in the scope of the society's operations, the four law be included being specially moniton, instanced being specially more than the scope of the society's operations, the four law destruction of the society's operation of the society of the destruction of the subscription of the subscription of the special reports on these subjects by means of the public press, special reports on which is the causation of the public press, special reports on the subjects of the origination of twenty; and continue with public bodies for the origination of twenty; and committee and as active committee and as active committee the contexting operation of twenty; and context of the subject of the su

THE NATURALIST.

TI IS PERILATS HARDLY SURPRISING that very little is J. known of the otters of South Africa, a country where the geographical area is inneresse and the population very seasty. One may, in fact, earth fifty well-known tooks of African sport travel, and nature without fading more than two out three brief retrements to diters. These may be published The Fewards Nicty, and Mr W. L. Ecitater, the latter of whom published The Feward of South African may be gathered from the following remark by Mr Schatter concerning the Cape otter, Little has been recorded about the labilits of the cape otter, Little has been recorded about the labilits of the cape otter, Little has been recorded about the labilits of this otter, while of the other species meetinged in his book there meetly follows the description, dimensions, and distribution.

Geographed, although such remains to be discovered cancerning their distribution and habits. These our the Cape otter (Latter capes) and the cape of the cape of the cape of the Cape otter (Latter capes) and the Cape otter. Concerning the cape of the Cape otter (Latter capes) and the Cape otter. Concerning the cape of the Cape otter. Concerning the Cape otter, and the Cape otter. Concerning the cape of the Cape otter. Cape otter cape of the Cape otter. Cape otter cape of the cape of the Cape otter cape of the

rom. The Bhodosian clawless etter (Luire espensis hinisi) has, sa

I have pointed out, been recently noticed in these columns. These three are a present the only otters yet discovered to food Africa. No cater hunting has hitherto been attempted in the country; but I am coveringed that there is an esceleted with for this sport in many parts of South Africa, and I be really for this port in many parts of South Africa, and I be really down that within the next deven years this sport will not only down that within the next deven years this sport will not only the present of the pr

A GREY TARRY.

A GREY TARIH.

Till quite recently, at any rate, the takin has been one of the fre species of big game ruminants that have not failen to the size of the white species of big game ruminants that have not failen to the size of the white species of big game ruminants that have not failen to the size of the white species of big game ruminants that have not failen to the size of the white species of the white was and in prost in sent home the complete shall and six not do do did the found the said to of this anison in the province of five-time and its prost is easier to the said in the province of the said and six not a said to the said the said

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

es to the Mexagents prove April 27 to Met L

Date	Name.	Country.	How chained.	Vincianal Section
Appl)	1 White-created Tops Billions (Tayriornus leg- cologius)	Lagra	Present by Dr Stracton	Ling
23	1 All-green Parminet (Bretagerys (trice) 2 Turker Volpares (Cath-		Prescript by Mr Geo. J. Physis Prescript by Mr &	
•	ortiz ezro) 2 Common Vilpata (Fipero Acrest) 3 Molecta Litzaria (Matech	Europe	Proceed by Mr.	Beplin San
	Assertates) 1 Sansgal Tourscon (Terro- cus acres)	Schwadt, Nicuria	Principal by Capt. Oxfor Purchased	W.kday
•	(Yerocus macrerlys- ches)	Dir	Diss	
H ₁	l Mistie Cromilles (Croco- dilus affeticus) 2 Chiachilles (Chiachille Icaiscre)	Gold Cinet		
		l	agezie]

The Jakirt Siork.—Juring the past six or cick run there has been a represente demand for the stag and all feathers of the South and Central American jake and all feathers of the South and Central American jake as a sound similarithm in the numbers of these handsome and useful thin, and the descrition of furmer haunts by the survives, which request the open Savanna contantly bordering the numbers of shallow-water higoons in Venerucks, Gulana, and Brasil. American have been supposed by the same of "garson suddato," from the military exposures presented by a fock of these birds when marching in Ima. Bits be hoped that some legislation may be brought short, as in the case of the white agrees; to put a top to the wante darks that is reported of the useful and intellegists jakets.

case of the white spreis, to put a step to the wasten detected that is reported of the useful and innfinentre ishire.

A Mars Malbans—It is constitutes asserted that our howbigs of the birtog animals of the world is appreciating complete, and that few more species remain to be discovered. As Assets with the however, recently cited the remarkable case of the mollage Spirula as a proof to the cuntury. Spirula is a decise posity-white, spiruly trivined chambered shell americal be iney morifus, but with the whorks open instead of its const, is dismoster being little more than an inch. It is estimately begin, and hence cannot survive long on a surf-beatm short, and yeld many tropical coasts is found in such multimate as to kin vertiable indges or windrows. Nevertheless, apart from ingress, the specimens of the complete animal hitherto othered maint but half a doors. The first, which was dissected and describe by Sir R. Owen many repeat ago, was brought from New Zelazin its second, of which the origin is unknown, was purchased by Owen't the little, now in the museum of the contract of the Challenger; the fifth was taken in the same names by the Challenger; the fifth was taken in the same names by the Challenger; the fifth was taken in the same names to was contract of Semanta in a deep-sca net by the remais General scientific expedition on the Vest Indies; while the child and have as captured of Semantan in a deep-sca net by the remais General which we have no knowledge whatever?

visit must be the number of rare sulmais living in the corst of which we have no knowledge whateve!

The Morthern Square-mouthed Rhimoseron —A small head of the square-mouthed rhimoseron (Small head of the square-mouthed rhimoseron) which head of the square-mouthed rhimoseron the control was head an opportunity of imposing it. The sameluse shell the Lado exclave by histor Powell-Cotton, for whose prima measure the tronk one although measuring Rito, round the best being often and the tronk one although measuring Rito, round the best being often as the front one, although measuring Rito, round the best being often as the property of the control of the head of the head control of the lade of the head control of the gas at will presented by the flower of the middle of the head century the head of the head of the head century the head of the head century the head of the head century the head of the h

[Adventisement]—"The Sportman's Handbook to Francis Office Properving, and Aristic Sering Up of Trophin and Sportman Sproppion Study to the Hanning Grounds of the Winds." By Jacks Ward, V.S.S. Price ha 64, art. London: Rowland Ward Linear, S. "Jungin," IS, Freedilly.

eagles all took their fish supplies from these same pools, and the Bakurutse natives were occasionally to be seen wading in line, middle or breast deep, in the water, spearing fish, often of large size, in their steady progress. The pelicans pouched their prey, and fiew off each morning to a neighbouring raltpan to swallow and digest them. The remains of the banquets of the grand African fishing eagle (Haliactus vocifer) were often to be seen on the shores of the Boiletli River, but these were easily to be differentiated from those which had fallen victims to the otter. In these last a plees or two out of the shoulder had usually only been devoured, very much after the habit of our English otter where fish is plentiful.

Skins of both species—the Cape and the spotted-necked otter—were brought to us by natives in this part of Ngamiland, and occasionally the animals themselves were seen in the living state. They are shy, nocturnal creatures, however, as in most other parts of the world, and do much of their hunting by night. Our waggon dogs sometimes drove them from their hovers. Walking down to the Botletli one morning at early dawn, to shoot wildfowl, I had a fine view of a bitch otter of the Cape species swimming with three quarter-grown young ones along the banks of the river. All swam with complete grace and ease, and were manifestly as perfectly at home in the water as our British species. I have seen both this and the spotted-necked species at other times on the Botletli, as well as on the Limpopo, the Gamtoos (Cape Colony) the Cape otter only-and other rivers in South Africa. Dr Longberg suggests that the Cape otter subsists mainly on molluses, this view being apparently derived from its dentition and from the habits reported of its near ally, the Rhodesian clawless otter. In some situations and under certain conditions I believe that this otter, with its powerful jaws and teeth, can and does subsist on a diet of this kind. But my own observation and the reports of natives convince me that in suitable haunts it partakes of a much more varied dietary. It is a curious fact, by the way, bearing out the view that this ofter can adapt itself largely to a diet of crabs, as well as crawfish, mussels, and other shell fish, that on many parts of the coast line of Cape Colony, sometimes where there are no rivers near at hand, this otter is to be found supporting itself apparently with perfect case.

The spotted-necked otter (Lutra maculicollis) is somewhat darker in colour than the last-named species, and measures and weighs considerably less. A fair specimen will measure about 34in. to 36in., of which the tail extends to some 14in. or 15in. The upper and lower lips are white, and the throat and chest are curiously spotted with light red, whence the animal derives its name. Both fore and hind feet carry claws upon each toe, and all are strongly webbed. This otter, in fact, seems even more perfectly adapted for existence in the water than its larger and heavier cousin the Cape otter. In Cape Colony this species is not well known, though I believe it has been found in some few rivers. Lichtenstein, who procured the first specimens during his travels in South Africa (1803-06), is believed to have obtained them from the Bambusbergen, in the north-east region of the old colony. It has been found in the Transvaal on the Limpopo, Ngamiland, Natal, Mozambique, Rhodesia, Nyasa-land, and on the west coast from Angola and the Cameroons northwards as far even as Liberia. As a rule hunters in South Africa are busied in pursuit of other and to them more important game, and hitherto little attention has been paid to unobtrusive creatures such as the otter. In the future I am convinced that this species (the spotted necked) will be observed and reported from many more localities than at present. I believe that many years ago I saw one or more of these otters on the Gamtoos River in Cape Colony, and I have little doubt that this otter will be identified from various rivers in Kaffraria. and even in the old colony, as well as from many other localities farther north. The habits of this otter are very much like those of our own British species. It is an expert fisher, and devours at times other kinds of food, such as small mammals, the young and eggs of wildfowl, crabs, fresh-water mussels, and other odds and ends. Coarse fish of various kinds are extremely plentiful in most South African rivers, and this otter has small difficulty in satisfying the major portion of its wants from this SOURCE.

The Rhodesian clawless otter (Lutre capensis hindei) has as

there has been a regrettable demand for the wing and tail feathers of the South and Central American jabira stork for the decoration of ladies' hats. The result has been to cause a serious diminution in the numbers of these handsome and useful hirds, and the desertion of former haunts by the survivus, which frequent the open Savanna country bordering the manshe and shallow-water lagoons in Venezuela, Guiana, and Brazil. Among the European population of Venezuela the jabiru is known by the name of "garson soldado," from the military sprearance presented by a flock of these birds when marching in line. It is to be hoped that some legislation may be brought about, as in the case of the white egrets, to put a stop to the wanton destruction that is reported of the useful and inoffensive jabiru.

A Rare Molluse.—It is sometimes asserted that our knowledge of the living animals of the world is approaching completion, and that few more species remain to be discovered. An American writer has, however, recently cited the remarkable case of the mollose Spirula as a proof to the contrary. Spirula is a delicate pearly-white, spirally twisted chambered shell, somewhat like a tiny nautilus, but with the whoris open instead of in contact, its diameter being little more than an inch. It is extremely fragile. and hence cannot survive long on a surf-beaten shore, and yet ca many tropical coasts is found in such multitudes as to form veritable ridges or windrows. Nevertheless, spart from fragment, the specimens of the complete animal hitherto obtained number but half a dozen. The first, which was dissected and described by Sir R. Owen many years ago, was brought from New Zesland; the second, of which the origin is unknown, was purchased from a dealer for the British Museum, and was likewise dissected by Owen; the third, now in the museum at Sydney, was collected near Port Jackson; the fourth was dredged near New Guines by the Challenger; the fifth was taken in the same manner by the U.S. steamer Blake in the West Indies; while the sixth and last was captured off Sumatra in a deep-sea net by the recent German scientific expedition on the Valdivia. If an animal so common s Spirula must be is known from only six specimens, a fortion, how vast must be the number of rare animals living in the ocean d which we have no knowledge whatever!

The Forthern Square-mouthed Rhinocercs.—A massive head of the square-mouthed rhinoceros (Rhinoceros sinus) has just been mounted by Air Rowland Ward, by whose courier we have had an opportunity of inspecting it. The animal was shift in the Lado enclave by Major Powell-Cotton, for whose prison museum the trophy is destined. The horns are much worn down the front one with the formal one with the the front one, although measuring 24in, round the base, being call 16in. along the curve, and the hinder one 6in. The small belongs to the race described by Mr Lydekker as B. sinus calming the curve. in the Field of Feb. 28, the typo being a skull presented by liain Powell-Cotton to the British Museum (Natural History). Abox the middle of the last century the late Sir Samuel Baker described a horn which he had seen at Khartoum as being 3R loss and immensely thick, which not improbably belonged to this rec. As shown by Air Oldfield Thomas (Nature, Oct. 18, 1900), Professor J. W. Gregory believed he saw three examples of the square monthed thingscape in I children the sale of the square and the same and the sale of the square monthed thingscape in I children to the sale of th mouthed rhinoceros in Leikipla, though he failed to shoot one, and Mr Thomas then recorded the first authentic evidence of the existence of this rhinocorus north of the Zambesi, he bring identified the skull of one shot by Major Gibbons on the Upper Nile near Lado. This skull and the horns were exhibited by Ir Schater at the scientific meeting of the Zoological Society of Dec. 18, 1970 and about the scientific meeting of the Zoological Society of the Zoological Society of Dec. 18, 1970 and about the scientific meeting of the Zoological Society of Dec. 18, 1970 and about the scientific meeting of the Zoological Society of Dec. 18, 1970 and about the scientific meeting of the Zoological Society of Dec. 18, 1970 and about the scientific meeting of the Society of Dec. 18, 1970 and about the scientific meeting of the Society of Dec. 18, 1970 and about the scientific meeting of the Society of Society Dec. 18, 1900, and about three years later he exhibited a nonhorn obtained by Capt. Hawker from Belgian officers at Land and taken from a specimen shot in the district. The finest hom yet secured north of the equator is one belonging to Brigain. General Mahon (for whom it was mounted by Mr Rowland Ward) This horn, measuring 36 in. along the outside curve, was enhibled at a meeting of the Zoological Society on Nov. 17, 1903, when it was stated that Mr Ward had known of these horns being sent from the Souden for some year. from the Soudan for some years before Major Gibbons second

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"Jungic," 157, Piccadilly.