A MEMORABLE DAY.

THREE OF US, B., C., and myself, being stationed at S., a large cantonment in Southern India, had the good fortune to draw one of the shooting reserves which are thrown open every third or fourth year by local authorities and drawn for, if there is more than one applicant for the same district, by any in the garrison who wish to shoot. A train journey of some ninety miles and forty-five miles by very indifferent roads brought us by the beginning of March fairly into our district. There were tiger, bear, and panther in plenty, and we soon had skins of each in camp, as well as a young bear cub, whose remonstrances against what he justly considered illegal detention made night hideous. We were encamped in the partly dried-up bed of a stream running through a gap in the hills, and every evening young buffaloes were tied up close to where tiger were accustomed to drink regularly. There was no mistaking these places, as fresh footprints could be seen every morning. Our usual custom was for one or more of us to go out every each day and visit these buffalo, and if one was found killed track and ring the tiger and arrange for the subsequent beat.

On this particular day B. and I went off early to inspect the tie-ups on the eastern side of the river, while C. dealt with those nearer camp. A four-mile walk, during which we saw or heard jungle fowl and partridge, and we picked up a local village shikari who had tied up the "coolgas" the night before. B. and I were armed with a couple of light rifles, and, taking these in hand, we entered into the jungle after the shikari. The first two buffaloes we found untouched; the third had been taken. Very cautiously examining the ground, we found tracks of no fewer than four tigers—one male and two females. They had completely devoured the "coolga" with the exception of one hind leg, which had been carried under a bush and carefully covered with leaves.

Before ringing the tigers we went to look at the fourth buffalo, and found him untouched, but there were tracks of three tigers, which had passed him within a few yards on their way to drink after killing. I cannot understand why he was not taken, as one of the tracks was within twenty yards, and he was entirely in the open without cover of any kind. There was a dense mass of trees, bushes, and undergrowth close to this last buffalo, into which the tigers' tracks led, and, circling this, we found no fresh footmarks leading out of it, and this decided us that the tigers must be lying up there.

Neither B. nor I had brought our heavy rifles with us so I sent a note to C. asking for them and for food and drink and several other things. We had passed a village tank, or "theel," a couple of miles away, and while waiting for the rifles and beaters B. and I went off there to pick up something for the pot.

It was quite a small piece of water, half a mile long and 200 yards broad, but held nukta, comb-duck, spot-bill, garganey, common and whistling teal, and snipe round the edges. The duck were very wary and kept well out of range, but between us we managed to pick up a nukta, a garganey, two cotton teal, and four snipe. One snipe I dropped, and it fell on the edge of the jungle and took to his heels like a redleg. I chased him in and out of bushes for quite fifty yards, and finally lost him. A real jungle lunch followed—teal and snipe cooked on a stick, and washed down with the best toddy I have ever drunk. Just as we had finished, our rifles arrived, and a letter from C. to say that a tiger had killed a goat close to camp and that he had made all arrangements to drive, so we were not to expect him to join us. Beaters from the nearest village came in at the same time, but, as the village was very small and we had been rather late in sending in for them, the total only mustered twenty-five. While we had been shooting and lunching, machans had been constructed in trees, and, everything being ready, B. and I went on and took up our positions.

The machans were about sixty yards apart, one on each side of a small but deep nullah, and I, having first choice, took the right-hand one, as it commanded the nullah for nearly twenty yards, and I judged the tiger would go down it. Unfortunately, there was a very bushy tree just in front of me, which completely screened my front view, but, as there was no time to alter existing arrangements, the sun getting very low, I took my chance and climbed in. After what seemed a very long wait the beat began. The men got nearer and nearer, till I could almost see them, and I had just given up hope and had lighted a cigarette when, looking up after throwing the match away, I saw a tigress about sixty yards to my right front, and well clear of the obstructing tree. She was standing quite still, and on, looking back at the beaters. I covered her and waited, hoping that she would come nearer or give me a broadside shot. Something moved, and, looking a few yards to her left, I saw another tiger. This last moved behind my obstructing tree, and that was the last I saw of him for the time being. Still wondering what the tigress, who remained perfectly still, looking back, I debated with myself whether I should fire or not, and was still undecided when I heard a shot to my left and a roar. The animal I was watching gave a bound in the air and went off at a gallop. I was very cramped in my machan, but turned sideways and took a snapshot, as one would at a snipe, as she crossed through a bit of open ground still about sixty yards away, and low growl was the only result. I fired the second barrel, somewhat despairingly, at her stern as she disappeared in the bushes. Immediately afterwards B. fired again, but, as I could see little or nothing in his direction, owing to the bushy tree, I was quite in the dark even as to what he was firing at. Then I heard an animal moaning and groaning, apparently in great distress, behind me and out of sight in the bushes, but took it for one of B.'s, as I could not hope that either of my shots had taken effect. The only thing that helped me to bear up was that she had growled when I first fired. The beaters came on, and yet another tiger appeared, as if out of the ground, to my right front, and then disappeared behind that same protecting tree, which hid everything.

I heard B. fire twice, and, looking towards him, I saw a tiger, still on its legs, staggering about in front of him. He fired again and again, and the animal disappeared. The beaters came nearer and nearer, and I called out to B., "What have you got?" He answered, "Two certainly, and I think a third." I had climbed down and went off to B.'s tree, and found that he had three tigers stone dead within thirty yards—two males and a female. I then went off to look at the tracks of the animal I had fired at, and to my great joy found plentiful bloodmarks. One of the "stops" under whose tree she had passed said she was badly hit as she staggered after the first shot, but this I did not see myself. I went back to B. and asked him if he would follow up for a short way, as I thought she would not go far, for she was bleeding freely. Moreover, the dying groans which we both heard close behind us showed that she was very hard hit. B. was perfectly willing, and we followed the tracks carefully for a hundred yards, and found her lying dead on an open piece of ground. The bullet had taken her a little bit far back and had smashed the liver to pieces, the second shot being a miss. B. had killed two of his tigers with single shots, the third having four bullets in him. I should like to have taken a photo of these four, but the sun was already down. Biers of branches were constructed, and we moved off campwards more than pleased with ourselves. Each village as we passed added its quota of yelling and dancing men and tom-toms, and when we finally arrived in camp, about 9 p.m., there must have been a couple of hundred yelling natives to arouse C., who had beaten for his tiger and lost it.

A. T. L.

LARGE SHOT v. SMALL SHOT.

SIR,—In your issue of the 22nd inst. I read a letter from R. M. L. in California, in answer to a query by "Lincolnshire" as to the best size of shot for all-round use at wildfowl with a magnum 12-bore to take the 2¾in. Perfect case. He says use 5½ or 5 shot (English size), and states enormous distances at which he has killed duck and teal with shot of this size. The reason he gives is (as nearly all of the supporters of small shot do) that he finds that the small shot find their way between the feathers of fowl more easily than large shot do. He also mentions that nearly all the wildfowlers out there use small shot—men who can almost shoot wildfowl till they are sick of it, and ought to know a great deal about the question.

What I should like to know is, why should small shot find their way better through the feathers? Even supposing that they do, surely the velocity at 55 to 65 yards or so which the largo shot have must outweigh any advantage derived from the fact that small shot find their way better between the feathers, because the velocity of small shot is so greatly reduced at that range. If it were merely said that up to, say, 30 yards small shot are more likely to kill outright, because, the bird being so plastered with shot, some pellets are certain to find a vital spot, it would not be difficult to see that there might be a good deal to be said for it, but, generally speaking, they do not limit themselves to such short ranges.

Though my wildfowling experience is, I am sorry to say, very limited, I can say that I have many times heard No. 4 shot rattle on a company of widgeon or teal, but to fly on, without even apparently hurting them. If I had fired No. 3 shot at them instead I am convinced that I should have brought down some, probably several. I have since stuck to Nos. 3 and 4, and have obtained much better results in consequence, I believe.

Last season, using an ordinary 12-bore loaded with 1¼oz. of No. 3, at one discharge I killed outright two sheldrake which were 2ft. apart at 56 yards full (stepped). One bird only received one pellet, which penetrated the closed wing and went deep into the body. I have also tried Nos. 3 and 6 at 60 yards on boards which were free from knots. No. 3 buried themselves, while No. 6 in nearly every case only dented the board deeply, but failed to stick in. The cartridges were similar, except the size of shot.

I should be very interested if some of your readers who are supporters of small shot would be good enough to show how the small shot find their way through the feathers of wildfowl better than large shot, and how, in spite of their reduced velocity, they can be supposed to kill better at long ranges.

I may add that one or two of my acquaintances say that they have done best with No. 7, even in the daytime, for the reason given above. LOUTH.

[The feather theory is merely a suggested explanation to fit an observed fact. The greater efficiency of small shot, supposing it exists, as there is reason to believe it does, might equally well be explained on the assumption that the division of the charge into a greater number of units gives more chances of hitting a lucky spot than are given away by the reduced force per pellet.—ED.]

ORIENTAL BIG GAME NOTES.

IN the *Field* of Feb. 20, 1909, I referred to a spotted tsaine, or Burmese bantin, shot by Mr A. Porter in a forest in Siam during 1908. I now learn, through the courtesy of Mr E. R. Porter, of 28, Heath-drive, Hampstead, that a second specimen has been obtained from the same forest, where it was shot by Mr Elwes. This fact tends in some degree to militate against the suggestion that the spotting is due to senility or "sport," although it is almost impossible to say anything definite on the subject without some information as to the percentage of individuals in the herd which are spotted, or whether, indeed, all are not marked in this manner.

In the late Dr W. T. Blanford's volume on "Mammals" in *The Fauna of British India* it is stated that the great Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) is very rare to the westward of the Tista, if indeed it exist there at all. This statement, which has been copied into later works, turns out to be erroneous. I have been informed that some time ago a great hunt was organised by the Nepal Durbar in a portion of the Nepal Terai country which had not been shot over for something like thirty years, and that during this hunt no less than twenty-seven of the great rhinoceros were accounted for. Of these, ad to relate, twenty-one females were killed, while the remaining six, being males, were saved. Three of these males were sold to Mr C. Hagenbeck, while three were kept by the Nepal Government, these latter having been now tamed and trained for racing. Apparently when the great slaughter took place the Nepal Government was unacquainted with the value and supposed rarity of the great Indian rhinoceros. Although we now know that the animal still exists (or, at all events, did so before the great hunt) in considerable numbers to the west of the Tista valley, in the Nepal Terai, further definite information on this subject would be of interest alike to naturalists and sportsmen.

Since writing the note in last week's *Field* I have been informed that the rump patch in the young stag from Sikhim is pure white, while the general colour of the coat is of the dark brown hue characteristic of the Kashmir hangul (*Cervus cashmirianus*). As a young stag of the shou represented in one of Brian Hodgson's sketches preserved in the Zoological Society's library is also of a dark brown with a white rump-patch, there is no hesitation in regarding the young Sikhim stag as *Cervus affinis*. It is evidently in the winter coat, and, as a stag in another of Hodgson's sketches is represented without a light rump patch and of a redder colour than the first, it may be that these two features are characteristic of the summer coat. The loss of the light rump patch is not noticeable in the red summer coat of the roebuck and the Manchurian wapiti.

R. LYDEKKER.

SECONDHAND EJECTORS, Hammerless, Hammer Gun for Sale, by best makers. Old Guns taken in Exchange. Liberal prices allowed.—C. B. Vaughan, 39, Strand, London.—[ADVT.]

SELL YOUR OLD GUNS AND RIFLES before they become obsolete and worthless.—W. J. Jeffery and Co., of 13, Kingstreet, St. James's, or 60, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C., are always willing to buy from sportsmen or executors any guns or rifles they may wish to dispose of.—[ADVT.]

THE NORTH-WESTERN SHOOTING SCHOOL, near Stonebridge, Harrow-road, N.W. (Ring up Harlesden 38.) Experts available from 9 a.m. until sunset. Every kind of sporting shots and gun fitting. Guns by other makers can be used. Illustrated booklet free. Cheques Lancaster and Co. Ltd., 11, Panton-street, Haymarket, S.W.—[ADVT.]

WILLIAM FORD, St. Mary's-row, Birmingham, Gunmaker and Gun Fitter. Light Guns and Small Bores bored on my Eclipse principle a speciality to give as wide a pattern as it is possible to get. Borer of the Winning Guns at great London Trials, 1875-1879; also borer and maker of all trial guns for Kynoch's Perfect cases. Shooting Schools, Birmingham, and Manchester.—[ADVT.]

"PHENOMENAL STANDARD OF SHOOTING" with LANCASTER'S LATEST ·280 RIFLES, vide the *Field*, March 13, 1909, with flatest velocity (3060f.-sec.), flatest trajectory, special expanding bullets for deer and big game shooting. Single Barrel Falling Block; "Ross" Magazine; also Hammerless Ejectors. Charles Lancaster and Co. Ltd., Gunmakers to H.M. the King, 11, Panton-st., Haymarket, London, S.W. Est. 1826.—[ADVT.]

WATER FOR PHEASANTS IN DRY COVERTS.—The question of water supply for pheasants is easily overcome by the Patent Never Empty Water Trough, which catches the rain and dew and retains same without loss by evaporation. Hundreds in use on some of the largest estates. Satisfaction guaranteed. Testimonials and particulars. Apply Lowe and Son (N.E. Dept.), Sittingbourne.—[ADVT.]

"MODERN SPORTING GUNNERY," by Henry Sharp. "Well worth the attention of all sportsmen who are interested in the mechanical and technical aspects of sporting guns and rifles . . . We have practically nothing but praise for a volume which has given great pleasure in the reading."—*Field*, Nov. 24, 1906. 7s. 11d., post free. Westley Richards and Co. Limited, 178, New Bond-street, London, W., and 12, Corporation-street, Birmingham.

LONG RANGE CLUB.

MAY 22, at Bisley. Challenge cup, second competition. Appended are the leading scores. Major Richardson was unfortunate in finding his bolt give way when well up in the list:

	500yds.	1000yds.	Total.
R. W. Barnett, ·375/·303	74	67	141
A. B. B. Baker, ·375/·303	67	68	135
C. J. Woodrow, ·375/·303	69	65	134
Jones, Ross ·280	65	65	130
L. Chadwick, ·375/·303	65	62	127
R. Wigram, ·375/·303	63	61	124
E. F. Ashdown, Ross ·280	66	58	124
A. E. Ihler, ·375/·303	66	54	120

MIDDLESEX GUN CLUB.

THE following events were decided on Saturday last:

HANDICAP SWEEP.—Mr Gruebor (3), 6=9. Also shot: Messrs Kenswick, 6; Males, 8; Chipperfield, 7; Gale, 7; Smith, 7; Howell, 6; Evans, 6.

HANDICAP BY DISTANCE.—Mr Evans (18yds), 3, after a tie. Also shot: Messrs Gruebor (16yds), 3; Elton (16yds), 3; Males (16yds), 3; Kenswick (16yds), 3; Howell (14yds), 2; Chipperfield (18yds), 2; Greaves (16yds), 1.

HANDICAP OBJET.—Mr Gruebor (3), 7=10. Also shot: Messrs Greaves, 9; Evans, 8; Howell, 7; Kenswick, 7; Males, 7; Chipperfield, 6; Elton, 6; Goodwin, 6; Smith, 5.

SCRATCH CUP.—Mr Chipperfield, 9. Also shot: Messrs Evans, 8; Greaves, 8; Kenswick, 7; Vandenbergh, 7; Smith, 4; Goodwin, 4; Grueber, 3; Males, 2.

C.B.S.A. GOLD MEDAL (FINAL).—Mr Chipperfield (2), 9=11; Mr Evans (2), 8=10. Also shot: Messrs Grueber, 8; Vandenbergh, 8; Greaves, 8; Goodwin, 8; Howell, 7; Kenswick, 6. Mr Gruebor made the best aggregate in three out of four competitions, and won the medal outright.

HANDICAP OBJET.—Mr Males (3), 7=10, after a tie. Also shot: Messrs Howell, 10; Elton, 10; Goodwin, 10; Grueber, 10; Evans, 9; Chipperfield, 9; Vandenbergh, 7; Kenswick, 7.

TEAM SHOOT.—Messrs Howell, 10; Smith (captain), 9; Gruebor, 9; Gale, 9=37. Messrs Evans (captain), 9; Greaves, 9; Males, 8; Elton, 7=33. Messrs Greaves, 10; Goodwin, 9; Evans (captain), 8; Males, 8=35. Messrs Grueber, 7; Howell, 7; Smith (captain), 6; Gale, 6=26.

PIGEON SHOOTING.

FIXTURES.

Thursday, June 24, &c.—Clay Bird Shooting Association Championship

THE GUN CLUB.

SATURDAY, MAY 22.—Scores:

£2 HANDICAP, £10 added; 12 subs.

30½ Mr G. P. Roch (prize, £34)	1 1 1 1 1 1 1	9
25 Mr R. Chapman	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0	8
22 Sir J. A. Miller	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0	8
31½ Hon. P. Thellusson	1 1 1 0	3
26½ Mr L. Henry	1 1 0	2

Missed second bird: Mr W. Watson, 27yds; Mr F. M. Cobb, 23yds.
Missed first bird: Mr Kenrick, 22yds; Mr V. Barker, 29½yds; Mr J. B Knight, 26½yds; Mr G. J. Plevens, 26yds; Mr F. Hodgson Roberts, 27yds.

£2 POULE DE SERIES, £10 added; 11 subs.

29 Mr G. P. Roch (divided £22)	1 1 1 1 1 1 1	8
26½ Mr Hodgson Roberts (ditto)	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	8
26 Mr G. J. Plevens	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0	7
22 Mr F. M. Cobb	1 1 1 1 0	4
26 Mr J. B. Knight	1 1 1 1 0	4
29 Mr V. Barker	1 1 1 0	3

Missed second bird: Baron de Pallandt, 29yds; Mr C. Carroll, 29yds; Sir J. A. Miller, 22yds.
Missed first bird: Mr W. Watson, 27yds; Hon. P. Thellusson, 31½yds.

£2 HANDICAP; 11 subs.

27½ Mr Cumberland (divided £22)	1 1 1 1	4
26 Mr G. J. Plevens (ditto)	1 1 1 1	4
29½ Mr V. Barker	1 1 1 0	3
22 Sir J. A. Miller	1 1 1 0	3
30½ Baron de Pallandt	1 1 0	2

Missed second bird: Mr H. Hicks, 22½yds; Mr W. Watson, 27yds.
Missed first bird: Mr F. M. Cobb, 23yds; Hon. P. Thellusson, 31½yds; Mr J. B. Knight, 26½yds; Mr G. P. Roch, 30½yds.

£2 HANDICAP; 9 subs.

31½ Hon. P. Thellusson (divided £18)	1 1 1 1 1	5
29½ Mr V. Barker (ditto)	1 1 1 1 1	5
27½ Mr Cumberland	1 1 1 1 0	4

Missed third bird: Mr F. M. Cobb, 23yds; Sir J. A. Miller, 22yds.
Missed second bird: Mr W. Watson, 27yds.
Missed first bird: Mr G. J. Plevens, 26yds; Mr G. P. Roch, 30½yds; Baron de Pallandt, 30½yds.

£2 HANDICAP; 8 subs.

26 Mr G. Plevens (divided £16)	1 1 1	3
23 Mr F. M. Cobb (ditto)	1 1 1	3

Missed third bird: Hon. P. Thellusson, 31½yds; Mr G. P. Roche, 30½yds; Mr H. Hicks, 22½yds.
Missed second bird: Mr V. Barker, 29½yds; Mr L. Henry, 26½yds.
Missed first bird: Mr Cumberland, 27½yds.

MATCH: £25 a-side; 50 birds.

27½ Mr Cumberland	{1111111101111111111111 / 0111111101111101111011	20 out of 25 / 18 out of 25
29½ Mr V. Barker	{1110100111101111101111 / 1010111101111011101111	17 out of 22 / 17 out of 22

Total ..... 38 out of 47
Total ..... 34 out of 47

Open Meeting.

MONDAY, MAY 24.—An open meeting was held under the auspices of the Gun Club to-day, when the competitors included a strong contingent of shooters from all parts of the country, and also many prominent members of the club. Prize money amounting to £150 was offered for competitions, in conjunction with a handicap at seven birds, entry £2, and no fewer than 140 subscriptions were received. After an interesting contest victory rested with Mr G. P. Roch, who is probably the best shot in the club; Mr J. Shapley, of Newton Abbot, was second. The birds were particularly fast on the wing, and only 373 kills were recorded to 139 misses. Leading scores:

OPEN HANDICAP of £150, seven birds; 140 subs.

29 Mr G. P. Roch (fourth chance) (prize, £30)	1111111111111	14
26 Mr J. Shapley (fourth chance) (prize, £50)	1111111111110	13
26½ Mr F. Hodgson Roberts (prize. £30)	1111111111110	13
26 Mr Calder (prize £10)	1111111111110	11
27 Mr P. Wraith (second chance) (prize, £10)	1111111111110	11
27 Mr T. Thellusson (fourth chance)	1111111110	10
27 Mr Cumberland (fourth chance)	1111111110	10
26 Mr J. Shapley	1111111110	9
29 Mr G. P. Roch	1111111110	9
24 Mr R. Earl (second chance)	1111111110	9
27 Mr S. Nutt (third chance)	1111111110	9
27 Hon. F. Thellusson (second chance)	1111110	8
25½ Mr H. Chapman	1111110	7
24 Mr R. Roake	1111110	7
25 Mr A. Randolph (fourth chance)	1111110	7
26 Mr G. Harrison (fourth chance)	1111110	7
27 Mr F. Cobb (fourth chance)	1111110	6
26 Mr G. Harrison (third chance)	1111110	6
27 Mr P. Wraith (fourth chance)	1111110	6
27 Mr Cumberland (fifth chance)	1111110	6
24 Mr L. Henry (fourth chance)	111110	5
2 Mr A. Randolph	111110	5
24 Mr W. Barnes	111110	5
26 Mr H. Chapman (second chance)	111110	5
25 Mr W. Watson (second chance)	111110	5
24½ Mr R. Pepper	111110	5

The Field Sports and Game Guild.—The annual general meeting of this society, at which Lord Westbury will preside, will be held at twelve o'clock noon on Thursday, June 10, to confirm and adopt the report of the committee, to pass the proposed guarantee issue, and to transact any further business.

SECONDHAND GUNS wanted for cash or exchange; highest prices given.—C. B. Vaughan, 39, Strand, London.—[ADVT.]

THE "E.C." GAME REGISTER can be had free by post on sending name and address to the "E.C." Powder Company Limited, 20, Bucklersbury, London, E.C.—[ADVT.]

WIMBLEDON SHOOTING SCHOOL, Worcester Park, Surrey (over 60 acres in extent). Lessons and practice in shooting. Gun fitting by experts. Telephone: 14 P.O., Malden.—[ADVT.]

SJOGREN AUTOMATIC SHOT GUN. Price 12 guineas.—These guns can now be obtained from Wm. Moore & Grey, 8, Craven-st., Strand, London, W.C. (Telephone No. 2086 City), who can also arrange for sportsmen to test the gun at the range.—[ADVT.]

THE POCKET GAME REGISTER.—A handy little notebook for recording the results of each day's sport, amount of game killed, how disposed of, &c. Sent post free to any address. Apply to the Secretary of Schultze Gunpowder Co. Limited, 28, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.—[ADVT.]

ROOK AND RABBIT RIFLES.—250-bore central fire, a aperture rear sight, ivory combination front sight, £3 each. A similar rifle with open sights, £2. 2s. Only a limited number at these prices. A novelty, a single-barrel Miniature Shot Gun, 32-bore, weight 4½lb., range 25 yards; suitable for collectors, the garden, or a boy. Price 30s. each; Cartridges, 5s. 100. W. R. Leeson Ltd., Ashford, Kent. Telegrams, Leeson, Ashford. Bond-street. Attendance Mondays and by appointment.—[ADVT.]

"PHYSICAL TRAINING AT HOME." By A. Alexander F.R.C.S., Principal of the Southport Physical Training College Author of "Healthful Exercises for Girls," "New Games and Sports," &c. Price 2s. net, in crown 8vo. With an introduction by Rear-Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, R.N., C.B., M.P. Illustrated.—London: Horace Cox, *Field* Office, Windsor House