#### A GOOD MORNING AFTER GOORAL

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IN MAY OF THIS YEAR the wish to try (to me) new ground goral. To the uninitated I must explain that that (Menitragus geral) the uninitated I must explain that that (Menitragus geral) the Himalayan wild goat, and gooral (Nemorhactus geral) the Himalayan chamois. Both are found pretty well distributed all through the Himalayan, the gooral frequenting the ranges from 4000ft. to 8000ft., and the tahr higher up still. Starting from Ranikhet, a pleasant little "hill station" and the summer headquarters of the Bareilly brigade, a march of nine days brought me to my shooting ground. The next eleven days were taken up in real hard climbing, and were rewarded by two tahr, one gooral, and a black bear. The tahr, however,

ere taken up in real hard climbing, and were rewarded tahr, one gooral, and a black bear. The tahr, however, w and far between with only small heads, so I decided tem alone and try for gooral only.

The state of the tahr, the one gooral hot was an "off day", but, of course, directly I wanted hem they all seemed to have disappeared. Three blank lowed, but on the fourth my juck changed, As usual, I

Tainy wee gooral in less than two hours I thought deserved immer gooral in less than two hours I thought deserved in tailsing in a photograph, so, sending back to my camp for camera, I sat down and had a drink and breakfast, and the last down and had a drink and breakfast of the I was then quite ready. And—finished my pipe.

C. A. K. J.

# RHINOCEROS HUNTING IN AFRICA.

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FOR A WHOLE WEEK I had been scarching for thinoceres on an open plain with patches of thick bush and high nettles studded about. I had seen a good deal of spoor, but all of it at least a week old. One morning I started out about seven o'clock to follow a river bed, and, as I was walking through the long grass, followed by one of my porters, carrying my big 450 cordite rifle, there was suddenly a tremendous report. I heard a bullet whizz past me, and sprang round, to find the man crouching in the grass and looking the picture of terror. It was a miracle the bullet missed me, as the rifle I found pointing right at me, and the man was barely a couple of yards behind me. I suppose he had been fiddling with the rifle, and had in some way pushed up the safety holt. Then when carelessly carrying it he had, by some means or other, pulled the trigger. I followed the river bed from 7 a.m. to a.m. withus seeing anything but the inevitable hartebeest the detributed of the triver bed from 7 a.m. to a.m. without seeing anything but the inevitable hartebeest a duiker, which latter bounded off before I could get in hot. In every patch of nettles through which we waded we up a covey of francolin, which got up secraming and chatterine every direction. When I took out a shot gun to look them I could never find a single bird. It was wending my way home I chanced to look round, I, seeing a speek out on the plain in the far distance, I neediately brought my glass to bear upon it, hesitatingly mig it for a rhinecero. There it stood sideways on in the daying its cars and king its tail from side to side. Or was pung its cars and king its tail from side to side. Or was provided the part of the side o

ight my fininceros. There it stood sheemed is ears cho of long rank grass, flapping its ears cho of long rank grass, flapping its ears cho of side. Or was it the flicker of the ground? I shought I must walk above to make sure so started up a rise, at the to make sure so started up a rise, at the part of the started of t

When I reached them I found them of the most teription. The stems were much thicker than our ome, and every time I touched them—which, of obliged to do when crawling through them—I was ung all over my hands, face, and knees. After

#### SCOTCH PTARMIGAN.

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THE LIFE HISTORY of the ptarmigan (Lagapus mutus) is the story of a continuous struggle for existence under the most inauspicious circumstances. Found only on the summits of the mountains, far beyond the limits of forest growth, where heather, if it exists at all, appears only in its most stunted form, where rocks alone yield protection from the fury of the winter storm—there the ptarmigan contrives to flourish and to propagate its kind.

its kind.

Contrary to the opinion of veteran stalkers of my acquaintance, ptarmigan have suffered little from the snowstorms which swept across the Highlands last spring. The nests were for the most part preserved owing to their situation on the bare tops, from which the snow drifted as it fell. Thus it is that in many places plarmigan are more numerous than in former years, and the much talked of hardiness of the species has again proved its

salvation.

There can be little doubt that ptarmigan are increasing yearly in some parts of the Grampians and Monadhliadth ranges, from two causes, namely, the decrease of the larger birds of prey which formerly played havoe among the young broods, and the popularity of decrestabling, which has made proprietors of ptarmigan ground reluctant to disturb the deer by shooting on the tops. migan ground reluctant to disturb the deer by shooting on the tops until the month of October, when the majority of shooting tenants wend their way southwards in search of other zport. Thus it is that in many places ptarmigan are unmolested year by year. The ptarmigan is a prolife bird, laying from eight to the eggs, the former being the more usual number. On a rock-strewn plateau or a lichen-covered slope the nest is placed, and only those whe, like myself, have endeavoured to find it can realise hove the peculiar colouring of the eggs and of the sitting len cerve as a protection against the eggs and graven, the eagle, and the peregrine. The hen ptarmigan sits close, and even the keen-eyed falcon can recarcely distinguish her from her surroundings. The cock bird, though his colouring is equally protective, more frequently falls a victim from his fatal habit of perching on the top of a rock, or of strutting round the nest of the larger birds of prey during the present season has covided the season of the properties of the properties.

## SHOOTING NOTES AND QUERIES.

A MARKED PARTRIDGE.—It may be of interest to syour readers to learn that a partridge was killed on the Castle shootings on Sept. 3 marked "G.A.S., 1905." I shourious to know where it came from.—R. E. W. MAXWELL Dhu, Kingussie, N.B.).

Dhu, Kingossko, N.B.).

A CUNNING GROUSE,—Walking alongside the Highlands I observed a covey of grouse fly As they whizzed over the fence one of their numit it and dropped to the ground. I picked it up, at time the bird opened one eye, took a preep at me, a closed it again. I again examined it, but it apparently lifeless as before. I replaced it on! took a step or so backwards, but I had scarcely got to list feet, and, uttering a shrill ery, was soon

### REPORTS FROM MOORS, MANORS, AND FORESTS.

CADARROCH (ABERDEENSHIRE).—On Aug. 21, 22, 23, and 24, 392 brace of ere killed by five guns—Lord Saltoun, Lieut, Col. F. Fitzberber J. Rogers, Lieut, Col. A. H. Leith of Glenkindy, and Col. C. R. Burr