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point of the lower mandible penetrating the skin of the breast, undoubtedly while the bird was preening its feathers. Although the accident must have occurred a long time before it was shot, it had in some mysterious way managed to support itself very well. I found it in very fair condition and in perfect plumage. After making the drawing which accompanied Mr Tegetmeier's account of it, I preserved the specimen, which I still have, in the same position. The bird possessed the power of flight, which must have been gradually acquired by practice, as the fixed position of the head must at first have been almost sufficient to prevent flight.—F. W. FROHAWK.

THE BIG GAME COLLECTION AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

SIR,—The collection of big game animals now exhibited at the Natural History Museum is so extensive, and, so far as the larger species are concerned, so nearly complete, that its increase is comparatively slow. In fact, during the past year it has received only two important and striking additions. The first of these is the hind of the Sze-chuen race of the barasingha (*Cervus cashmirianus macneilli*), killed by Major Malcolm McNeill in Eastern Tibet, and described and figured by me in the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society* for last year. My first information of the existence of this so-called "white deer" was conveyed in a letter from the late Mr J. W. Brooke, who, writing shortly before his death, was in hopes of obtaining and sending home a specimen. Somewhat later Major McNeill shot two hinds, but was unfortunately unable to kill a stag. So far as can be determined without seeing the antlers, this deer appears to be so nearly related to the Kashmir hangul, or barasingha, that I have regarded it as a local race of that species, distinguished by its very light colour, which is creamy whitish grey, with the typical hangul markings. The occurrence in Sze-chuen and Eastern Tibet of a local form of the hangul is by no means surprising, for recent discoveries tend to show that the fauna of the province of Sze-chuen comprises a number of Himalayan and Malay forms, such as the sambar, the Himalayan black bear, the Malay bear, and the long-tailed panda. It may be hoped that we shall ere long receive a stag of this race, with its antlers.

The second addition to the big game collection is a fine specimen of the skull and horns of a bull of the Bahr-el-Ghazal race of Lord Derby's eland (*Taurotragus derbianus gigas*), a species previously represented in the collection only by two pairs of horns of the typical Senegambian race from the old Knowsley menagerie. The Bahr-el-Ghazal skull was acquired by purchase, but the museum has since received the horns and skin of a cow of the same race, shot by the late Prince Paul Demidoff, and presented by his executors. The head of this valuable specimen is now in the hands of the taxidermist.

In order to represent properly the Derbian eland in the collection, it will be necessary to obtain and mount the entire skin of a bull of either the Bahr-el-Ghazal or the Senegambian race. Another species not yet adequately represented in the museum is the bantin (*Bos sondaicus*), of which only heads are at present shown, one of these belonging to the typical black Javan race and the other to the tawny Burmese tsaine. Years ago the mounted skin of a fine old Javan bull was exhibited in the galleries, but as it stood in the open without any protection it suffered severely at the hands of the public, nearly all the hair being rubbed off, and the skin as highly polished as the seat of a well-used saddle. This is the only complete skin of a wild bull banting, or tsaine, I have ever seen, such specimens being rarely, if ever, received nowadays in this country. Specimens of Javan animals are notoriously difficult to obtain, but the skin of a bull tsaine might be procured without any great difficulty, and it is much to be hoped that some enterprising and patriotic sportsman may be induced to supply the museum with such a specimen.

A second Javanese and Malay animal of which I have for years been endeavouring to obtain a skin for the collection is the single-horned Javan rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*), at present represented in the galleries only by certain skulls and the mounted skin of a very young one. That well-known Malay sportsman, Mr Hubback, endeavoured a few years ago to procure a specimen, but without success, reporting that the animal is now very scarce in Malaya. It is, however, I believe less uncommon in Java.

I have also for some years been endeavouring to obtain, but hitherto without success, a skin of the onager, or so-called Asiatic wild ass (*Equus hemippus*), a species totally unrepresented in the museum galleries. As this animal, in the form of various local races, is found in Syria, Persia, Kach, Sind, and the Kobdo district of Central Asia, it seems strange that no British sportsman has hitherto had the enterprise to procure a skin for the national collection.

In the deer tribe the two great desiderata are the shou, or Sikhim stag (*Cervus affinis*), and Schomburgk's deer of Siam (*O. schomburgki*), the former at present represented by a mounted, albeit much faded, head and several skulls and antlers, while of the latter there is only one skull and several pairs of detached antlers. I feel sure that if the need for a specimen of the last-named species were brought to the notice of the King of Siam, his Majesty would give directions that the want should be supplied. Similarly, if his Highness the Maharaja of Cooh-Bihar were made aware that a complete mounted specimen of a bull of the great Assam buffalo is required to render the series of wild cattle more or less complete, I venture to think that such a welcome addition to the collection would be forthcoming.

Of course, some of the specimens in the collection are not in such good condition or as well mounted as is desirable. Among these may be cited the exhibited examples of the Cape hartebeest and the typical race of the brindled gnu; but these Lord Selborne has kindly promised to use his best endeavours to replace.

In the natural course of events my connection with the museum must sooner or later come to a close, and it would be a great personal satisfaction if before that event happens I could see the exhibited collection of big game animals so nearly complete as it would be if the above-mentioned gaps were filled. R. LYDEKKER.

Antarctic Seals for the Natural History Museum.—In addition to two penguins, Sir Ernest Shackleton has recently presented to the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, the