

In winter, that consideration is not material. The great advantage of roof light is that it affords so much more wall space for pictures and other objects, of which the village hall is the proper receptacle as a local museum. It would be interesting to hear what some of your contributors on the village hall question have to say on this point. In building our hall some years ago, the question of wall space did not seem important; but now that the walls are full of exhibits chiefly connected with the history of the village, portraits of past inhabitants, illustrations of important events (the photograph of the visit of Li Hung Chang to the Maxin Rifle Range, for an example), natural history specimens of strictly local interest, and to such the exhibits should be rigidly confined, I do not think that there can be two opinions as to the skylight being the best, and I find that the use of a warm tint of yellowish glass has a pleasant effect and only slightly adds to the expense. The other debatable question, on which we hold a very strong opinion here and the members are agreed almost to a man, is not so easily settled, relative to the provision of a bar for the sale of alcohol. Our Oxfordshire visitor (a man of evidently wide experience and sound common-sense) is of the same mind as we are here, and has resolved to restrict the beverages to non-intoxicants (for otherwise village clubs become glorified "pubs"), nothing sold stronger than "Adam's ale."—E. D. TILLY, Eynshford, Kent.

SEED TIME.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR.—As your correspondent, [referring to this head, says, there is a great difference now in the methods of sowing. Sixty years ago the sower went out to sow wheat, which he carried in a skip slung from his shoulders, and lung in front at a height which allowed free use of both hands in "throwing" corn." If the field was short, a bag of seed stood at each end; if longer, there was a bag midway, and from there the skip was refilled generally by a lad in attendance. As he set out, to sow at a brisk pace, he dipped in the skip, throwing with the right hand to the left, and with the left to the right, a throw with each sower being took. By an experienced hand the distribution of the corn was very even. This sowing was a delight for all youngsters to watch. If the field was a large one, there would be a "clapper boy" to scare away birds, and his cry was:

Away bold, away,  
Tak' a corn an' leave a corn,  
An' cum soo more terday.

When the lad tended the tips standing crop, instead of the word corn he said "bit." "Bean-dibbling" was also interesting, and the local rhyme in that part of Derbyshire of which I write was:

One far' mouse,  
One far' crow,  
One ter rot,  
One to grow.

A favourite saying at this time of the year was:

Plenty rain; plenty sun;  
Plenty root; plenty fruit.—R. W. T.

USE OF NECK MUSCLES BY PEKINGESE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

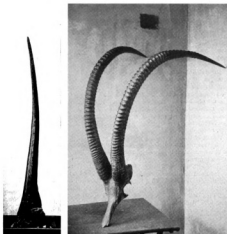
SIR.—I do not know whether it has been observed to what an extent some Pekingese use their neck muscles. One of my own Pekingese is particularly noticeable in this respect. She often lies on her back and bends herself into an arch by pressing her head against the ground. In fact, some of the antics indulged in look almost like attempts to stand on the head. She has also a curious habit of turning a side somersault suddenly, when running along at a good rate. In doing this she puts down her head so that the front part of the body being suddenly checked, the impetus makes her roll over like a clown. Another dog, uncle to this one, has the same habit. It is merely an expression of high spirit, indulged in whenever short, dry grass tempts them to have a good roll. It is no exertion to Pekingese to bend their necks back, in order to look straight up. These little dogs, in fact, use their neck muscles to an extraordinary extent, and are decidedly strong, for their size, in the forepart of the body. Their intelligence, too, is of a much higher order than any other lapdog of similar small dimensions, and I do not hesitate to put the Pekingese on a level with our own terrier races in point of understanding. They are, it must be admitted, somewhat selfish little dogs, and their greatest cleverness is displayed in the direction of food and the discovery of comfortable warm places to take possession of.—FLECK OF LAYS.

TWO AFRICAN TROPHIES.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR.—In addition to the Indian sambar head illustrated in your issue of February 17th, Mr. Rowland Ward has in his possession a second new record in the shape of a pair of horns, attached to a portion of the skull of that most graceful species, the sable antelope of South Central, Western, and Eastern Africa. This splendid specimen beats the previous record by three-quarters of an inch, the length along the front curve of the horns being 55in. In the next best specimen, which is from Angola, the length is 54in.; this is followed by one of 53in. from South-Eastern Africa, and then come two heads from North-Western Rhodesia, with horn measurements ranging from 52in. to 48in., the smallest leading on to a 45in. specimen from Matabeleland. The large number of unusually fine heads from Rhodesia lead one to wonder whether this is due to their coming

from a comparatively new country (from the sportsman's point of view), and consequently whether equally fine heads formerly occurred in Matabeleland and Mashonaland, where this magnificent antelope was originally discovered by Sir Cornelius Harris. Mr. Ward has had both this specimen and the under-mentioned rhinoceros horn cast in bronze. Although by no means a record,



A FINE RHINOCEROS, AND RECORD SABLE ANTELOPE.

the rhinoceros horn shown in the accompanying photograph is the fifth best example of the front horn of the typical southern race of the white rhinoceros at present known. The four best specimens in Mr. Ward's list respectively measure 60in., 59in., 57in., and 52in., while the one here illustrated has a length of 50in. As the next specimen in the list measures only 44in., the new example is an important addition to the list of long horns. All these very long horns pertain, of course, to cows, and it is interesting to note that the record example, which belongs to Colonel W. Gordon Cumming, and the present specimen have the tips inclined backward, so that they do not become worn. On the other hand, in the second best specimen, which is in the British Museum, the tip is bent strongly forward, so that it is worn into an oblique face by being rubbed along the ground as the animal fed. This particular horn was brought home and presented to the Museum by the traveller Ouseley, and the then keeper of the zoological department considered it to represent a distinct species, to which he gave the name of Ouseley's rhinoceros. So far, however, as can now be ascertained, the forward inclination of the horns in some cows of the extinct southern white rhinoceros was only an individual peculiarity. Mr. Ward's specimen, which, as already mentioned, has been cast in bronze, shows the square base and flattened front surface characteristic of the fore horn of the white species. I may take this opportunity of mentioning that the length of the antlers in the sambar head illustrated in your issue of February 17th was given as 80in. instead of 50in.—R. L.

GULLS IN THE FROST.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR.—Perhaps you may think this photograph worth publishing. I took it during the recent hard frost we had. Ever since a hard winter we had more than ten years ago the gulls have come up to the house whenever there is much frost. They sit on the lawn in numbers, and after every meal come right up on to the porch outside the dining-room window to be fed.—The Black-headed, the herring, and the common gull.—ISOBELLA HOME, Coldstream.



WINTER GUESTS.

FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR.—Ours is not the only age which has had to deplore the wanton destruction of old buildings and monuments. In 1721 Dr. William Stukely, the learned author of the "Itinerarium Curiosum"; or, an Account of the Antiquities and Remarkable Curiosities in Nature or Art observed in Travels thro' Great Britain,"