

## THE SPORTSMAN'S LIBRARY.

## AIR RIFLES.

The object of Mr. R. B. Townshend in writing a book wholly about the use of air rifles is to show how they can be used in gardens—suburban gardens—in safety, and that they will, when so used, teach the art of rifle shooting. "The Complete Air-Gunner" costs only 1s., and is published by Upcott-Gill, so that anyone interested will be wise to buy the book and see for himself what inducements it offers. There is this to be said in favour of air guns for short ranges: they are less powerful than miniature rifles shooting powders of kinds, but to us this appears no negation-of-danger encouragement, for if one is going to be shot there is no great difference between one power and another. They are equally objectionable. At the same time, air rifles which have caught on in the Midlands have one great advantage over higher ballistics. With miniature rifles the velocity is too high and the range too near to allow of much wind influence or necessary alteration of trajectory, but with the air rifles this is not so, and at near ranges wind has much the same effect as it has at long distances with the service rifle. The teaching of holding and letting off can always be usefully practised, and, after all, it is the first lesson to be learnt, for if a man cannot hold and let off correctly, his eyesight and his science of the rifle are absolutely useless to him.

The author has fixed up in his garden many curious devices for teaching boys to shoot; to none of these can we find any objection except that which speedily occurs to everyone whose neighbour converts a next-door garden into a rifle range. It is not correct to say that anyone who has a garden wall can place running men targets suspended on wires in front of it, and thus shoot in safety. Bullets glance from wire a little more freely than from anything else, and do it at every conceivable angle.

## THE CAMERA IN AFRICA.

Mr. SCHILLINGS's first book, "With Flashlight and Camera," was so good, and the results of his work with the camera were so novel that we were led to expect a good deal from the present volumes. In some respects we have been well satisfied, in others disappointed. It is, perhaps, natural that the new book should not be of quite such novelty, or the photographic studies so startling as in "With Flashlight and Camera." Much of the ground has already been covered, and one feels that the present volumes are in the nature of an overflow from the material collected for the first volume. Nevertheless, there is much good stuff in "In Wildest Africa," and those who have not had the good fortune to have met with the author's first book will be delighted with his second attempt. There are a very large number of illustrations, all from photographs, in these two handsome volumes, and many of the studies of wild animal life, taken in all sorts of attitudes and situations, are very good indeed. The author must have displayed extraordinary patience and skill to have obtained such a series as are depicted in these two and in the former volumes.

This book is rendered from the German, and, upon the whole, the translation is very well done. But here and there some blunders occur. There is no such animal as a musk deer in Africa. The little creatures shown at p. 156 are one of the smallest of the African antelopes, *Nesotragus moschatus*, known to naturalists and hunters as the Zanzibar Suni. Mr. Schillings himself makes a strange misstatement when he speaks of seeing the red



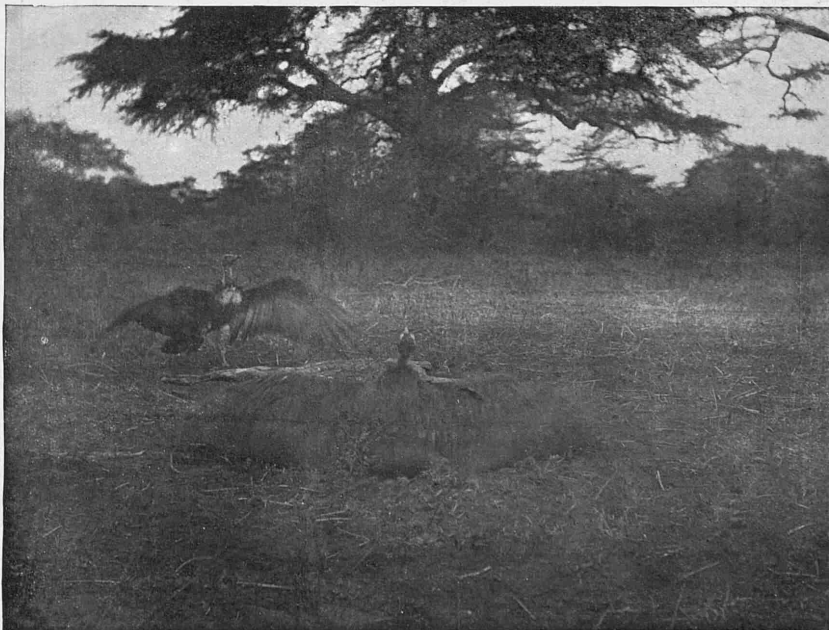
*Realism is achieved by reproducing natural conditions for the cultivation of snap-shooting.*

(From "The Complete Air-gunner," by R. B. Townshend, M.A. London: L. Upcott-Gill.)



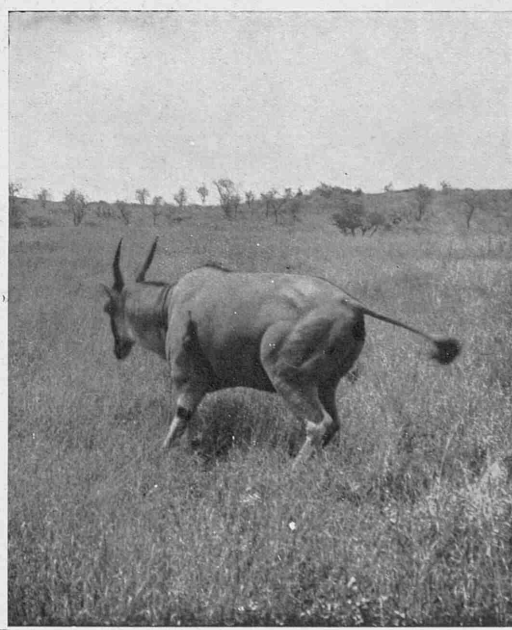
*"Rhinoceroses shed their horns from time to time and develop new ones. The cow-rhinoceros in this photograph had shed both of hers. The rhinoceros which I brought home and presented to the Berlin Zoological Gardens has renewed her front horn several times."*

(From "In Wildest Africa," by C. G. Schillings. 2 vols. London: Hutchinson and Co.)



*Automatically taken photograph of two vultures engaging in a contest over carrion.*

(From "In Wildest Africa," by C. G. Schillings. 2 vols. London: Hutchinson and Co.)



*An eland just before I gave it a finishing shot.*

deer in East Africa. The only red deer ever known in Africa is the Barbary stag of Algeria, Tunis, and Morocco, a now rare relic of the far distant epoch when Africa and South Europe were joined.

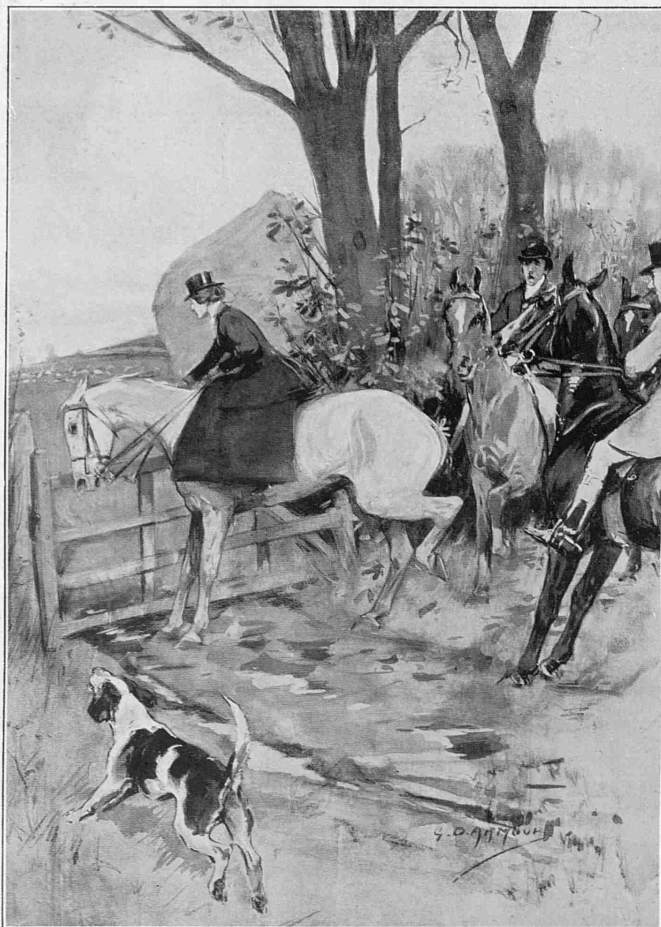
Mr. Schillings, among many other fascinating subjects on which he discourses, has something to say, at p. 461, on hunting lions and tigers with dogs. The Boers and some of the older school of British hunters understood very well the advantage of a pack of rough dogs in following up dangerous game such as lions. Gordon Cumming followed this method with much success. Another, and very striking, Asiatic instance is one quoted by the author, who says: "Dogs were used by the brothers Chudikow, who, some nine years ago, near Nikolsk, on the Amur, in Manchuria, killed nearly forty Siberian tigers in one winter." This is an excellent bag, and the men must have been good sportsmen to achieve it.

The lion and hyena studies are especially good, as are those of elephants, rhinos, zebras, wildebeest, hippos, buffalo, &c. "Fatima," a young rhinoceros, whose dam was shot, seems to have become rapidly tame, and is shown about the camp and marching contentedly along when the ex-

pedition was on trek. As a rule, young rhinos are extremely troublesome creatures to handle, and usually they die before they can reach the coast. Many of the bird studies which help to adorn these volumes are exceedingly interesting. Some of the names attached are, however, very misleading. We English do not know Guinea fowl as "Pearlhens," and the "Osprey," shown among reeds, at p. 344, is—is it not?—an egret. Shopkeepers sell the beautiful plumes of the white egret by the absurd name of "ospreys," but Mr. Schillings and his translator ought not to have followed their example. The osprey is, of course, one of the raptorial birds. This book should have had an index. Mr. Schillings has done fine work with the camera, and may be regarded as one of the pioneers of this kind of nature study. We hope to see more work from him in other parts of the world.

MR. R. L. V. SHERWOOD, ST. GATIEN HOUSE, NEWMARKET.  
(See page 384.)

TRAINING, like riding, runs in families, as may be said, and well-known names continually recur in that connection. It seems that if one wishes to understand a racehorse thoroughly and comprehensively, one should be born in pretty close association with him, so as to imbibe the right sort of instinct at an early age. Less drastic measures are often ineffective. Thus, to follow up our text, it happens that the subject of this notice—Mr. R. L. V. Sherwood, of St. Gatien House, Newmarket, who has over fifty horses under his charge—was bred in the correct way. No fault can be found with his pedigree. His grandfather trained Amato when that famous steed won the Derby in 1838; his father was an exceedingly clever and successful professor in the same line of business; his uncle—genial "Tom" Sherwood, of Epsom Downs—has turned out a large number of winners; whilst, to make the story complete, our hero was born at the celebrated South Hatch racing stables, Epsom. What could he be, therefore, but a trainer, and good at that? It would have been flying in the face of Providence to ask him to expend his energies in any other direction. Accordingly, at quite a juvenile stage of his sporting career, "Bob" Sherwood began to gain the necessary knowledge and experience under the able mentorship of his uncle Thomas at Epsom, where he remained until he was about twenty-six years old. Soon after he started on his own account at Newmarket; his successes have been numerous and important. The



A HUNTING NUISANCE.—THE KICKER.

latest of them to attract general notice, viz., the winning of the Cambridgeshire with that good horse, Land League—is now sufficiently appreciated by the sporting public. No secret was made of the brilliant chance possessed by Land League, whose trainer, indeed, told all his friends that he was sure to win. It was a thoroughly popular victory in every sense; for, apart from the genial personality of the trainer himself, Capt. J. G. R. Homfray, the owner of Land League, is a sportsman of the best type, who races purely to satisfy his love of the game. There is no taint of "commercialism" in connection with his Turf transactions. It is true, consequently, that anybody who backs his horses is certain to have a good run for the money; and that is not a small boon in these days of arduous *finances*. Our accompanying illustrations are sufficiently illuminative. They comprise a view of the yearlings at the foot of Warren Hill; a canter up Warren Hill, an exhilarating experience; Land League, the hero of the hour; Mr. R. L. V. Sherwood, who carries his honours modestly; Capt. J. G. R. Homfray, who is delighted to have won the Cambridgeshire, and is naturally proud of his good horse; and the St. Gatien House stable yard, whence winners are sent out with automatic precision. What splendid sporting associations are thus suggested! They help to make history, so to speak, in the Turf world; we cannot reach a higher plane. If plenty of first-past-the-post celebrities can only be backed at a nice price, one is not likely to lack the means to command other sources of personal felicity. Mr. R. Sherwood's successes are an adequate evidence of his ability, and we need not say more as to that point. He is quite indefatigable in his work, consistently industrious, and always with his horses. From early morn to dewy eve they are the object of his persistent care and solicitude. No wonder they win races, and—it is a pleasure to proclaim the fact—their victories are invariably popular.

THE WOODCOCK.  
BY ALAN R. HAIG-BROWN.  
(See page 386.)

"TWIXT snipe and woodcock there is a close relationship. Both come to us in mysterious migration flights from Northern Europe, both breed comparatively rarely within our own islands, both on their sudden appearance make the gunner's heart beat a trifle more quickly than does pheasant, partridge, or grouse. Foth, again, are slaves to their long bill, must choose soft soil, where the worms can be



TOY SPANIELS.—A COURT PROMENADE.  
From the painting by Maud Earl.

(By permission of Berlin Photographische Co., 133 New Bond St., W.)