

It is not easy to see the use of permanganate of potash and ghi, which were recommended to Captain Hotson. If a good effect followed the administration of the medicine mentioned, it must be ascribed to the tea on account of the tannic acid it contains.—E. B.]

No. XXXII.—NOTES FROM THE ORIENTAL SPORTING MAGAZINE,  
NEW SERIES, 1869 to 1879.

*Bears*: The late Colonel Nightingale speared many bears in the Hyderabad country, mostly, if not entirely, off Arab horses.

At pages 82 to 85 of Vol. XI a contributor relates the spearing of a number of bears, and some hyænas, in the Nirmal jungles (Hyderabad, Deccan) and relates the amusing sequence to a visit of a man-eating tiger to his camp. The local "Cutwal" or Jemadar of Police suggested the artful dodge of dressing up a sheep in garb of a man! The device was tried and did not answer, and indeed appeared, as well it might, to keep the tiger away from the camp.

At page 164 the exciting sport of spearing bears by moonlight is graphically told.

*Rhinoceros*: A sportsman, "T. A. D.," relates in Vol. IX, 1876, p. 557, *et seq.*, his sport in shooting Rhinoceros, in the Bhutan Dovars, off an elephant. No wonder that these unfortunate animals have woefully decreased in numbers! Such sportsmen were not entirely to blame as witness the following: "W" writes at p. 638. "The shooting in the Dovars will not last much longer. I was credibly informed that the "Pahlwaris or shikaris had killed no less than 200 Rhinoceros."

Here is "T. A. D.'s" account of his own doings. "The sun had set for some time, and I was obliged to give in: but I had bagged five rhinos in in that one day, and had wounded at least five times five more, a good many of which must have died. . . . My hands were blistered and bleeding with loading and I had broken two ramrods. I must have fired at least a hundred shots that day." The rifle used was a 12 bore and the locality East of the River Torsak near Patla Khawah in the Bhutan Dovars.

*Wolves*: There are recorded several instances of the riding down and spearing of wolves, and also of black brick. An instance of wolves hunting by concerted plan is also related.

*The Wild Ass*: At p. 276 of Vol. VI, 1873, is an account of the hunting of wild donkeys in the Runn of Cutch. Some 30 to 50 horsemen took part in the drive which resulted in one young ass being run down and captured in 3 hours and 5 minutes (6-25 to 9-30 a.m.) the distance covered being estimated at 40 miles.

*Various incidents*: In Vol. IV (p. 328) a contributor writes that near Dehra Dun, a panther was killed by a Ghoorka recruit who threw a stone at it and fractured its skull. The man came on the beast as it was drinking at a pool in a nala.

It is not uncommon in the Lower Himalayas for panthers to be killed by the hillmen with their axes, but the doing in of a panther by a hand thrown stone must be a very unique performance.

At p. 83 of Vol. XII is a note of an elephant having been bitten by a mad dog, and dying of hydrophobia.

The spearing of a nilghæe off Arab horses in Kathiawar is related: not a difficult feat in suitable ground.

*The "Pheo" call*: In the same volume a contributor writes that the "Pheo" call is uttered by a jackal and that this cry indicates that some wild beast of the feline tribe is afoot. This is also the writer's experiency, though it is not infallible, as on one occasion the cry was clearly caused by the presence of a hyæna.

*Crocodiles*: One wonders whether the eyes of the contributor of the following note did not deceive him. He relates that he saw young alligators (*sic*) entering their mothers' mouth and going into her stomach and coming out again! (Vol. II, p. 1521).

*Buffalo*: At p. 1873, Vol. VI, is a record of a cow buffalo killed in Assam: horns 13' 6" on the outer curve and 6' 6" tip to tip.

*Doe chinkara*: A doe chinkara with 9" horns is recorded. This must be nearly a "record." The writer has heard of an 11" head having been lately obtained in Sind, but has not yet been able to procure verification of this.

At page 1 of Vol. IV of 1871 is an interesting sketch of head of a doe antelope with horns. The animal was shot near Ahmednagar.

*Red Ants*: The following assertion deserves a paragraph all to itself: "Castor oil smeared round the tree trunk and boughs above and below the sitter in a tree will keep off the red ant." If this be so, it is worth knowing! Many a sportsman has been speedily dislodged by the vicious red ant with its vitriolic bite. On one occasion the writer lost a shot at a panther solely owing to the attentions of red ants.

*Snipe shooting*: A Subaltern in the Arrakan Battalion won a wager that he would bag 100 couple of snipe in six hours. He won his bet, shooting 126 couple between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. using two muzzle loaders. His performance was verified by the chaplain, and a very fine performance too.

*Some curiosities in Natural History*: The greediness and voracity of eels is well-known, but the eel of 2'-4" choked by attempting to swallow a brother eel of 2'-9" must have had a most unusual twist to his appetite.

Frank Buckland relates a fight between a scorpion and a mouse in which the latter was victorious. Combats of a similar kind—Scorpion *versus* "Jerry-mundlam"—a species of spider with jaws in four segments used to afford much after dinner amusement at a small military station a good many years ago. The arena was the surface of table cloth covered by an inverted finger bowl. Victory went either way according to the agility of the combatants. The point of attack, as in case of the mouse, was the junction of poison bag to the body, but, contrary to the experience of the mouse, the sting of the scorpion used to be very speedily fatal to the spider.

*Birds*: At p. 81 of Vol. VI, 1873, is a very useful list by A. Manson of the birds of Orissa. The English and Ooria names are given.

A list of the Orissa Mammals is at page 458 of Vol. V, 1872.

Some carefully ascertained weights of Floriken are given:

Four Cocks	..	18½	18½	16¾	16½	ounces.
Four hens	..	23½	22¼	21	18	ounces.

*Mahseer Fishing*: Several contributors give short accounts of the excellent Mahseer fishing to be had in Assam. No doubt similar sport can be had at the present day.

11th to 15th February	..	42 fish av.	20½ lbs.
19th to 26th December	..	28 ,,	3 to 40 lbs.
21st Oct. to 22nd Nov. (1875)	34 ,,	av.	31½ lbs.

Among these were several over 60 lbs. and one of estimated weight of 80 lbs. Length of this fish is given as 5'-3" with a girth of 3'-6". Calculated by the usual formula the weight was 148 lbs.

*Some Shikar!* The bag made by a party of guns in the Terai in 1870. 7th to 23rd April is worth recording.

18 tigers.
27 buffaloes.
135 deer.
42 pigs, &c., 240 head in all.

*Old Magazines* : Reference is made to some old sporting magazines, *viz.* :

Stocqueler's Bengal Sporting Magazine,  
Hume's India Sporting Review, 1847,  
Bombay Sporting Magazine,

and it would be of interest to collate from these, and also from the Old Series of the Oriental Sporting Magazine (circulated 1824). The writer hopes to be able to do this at some future time.

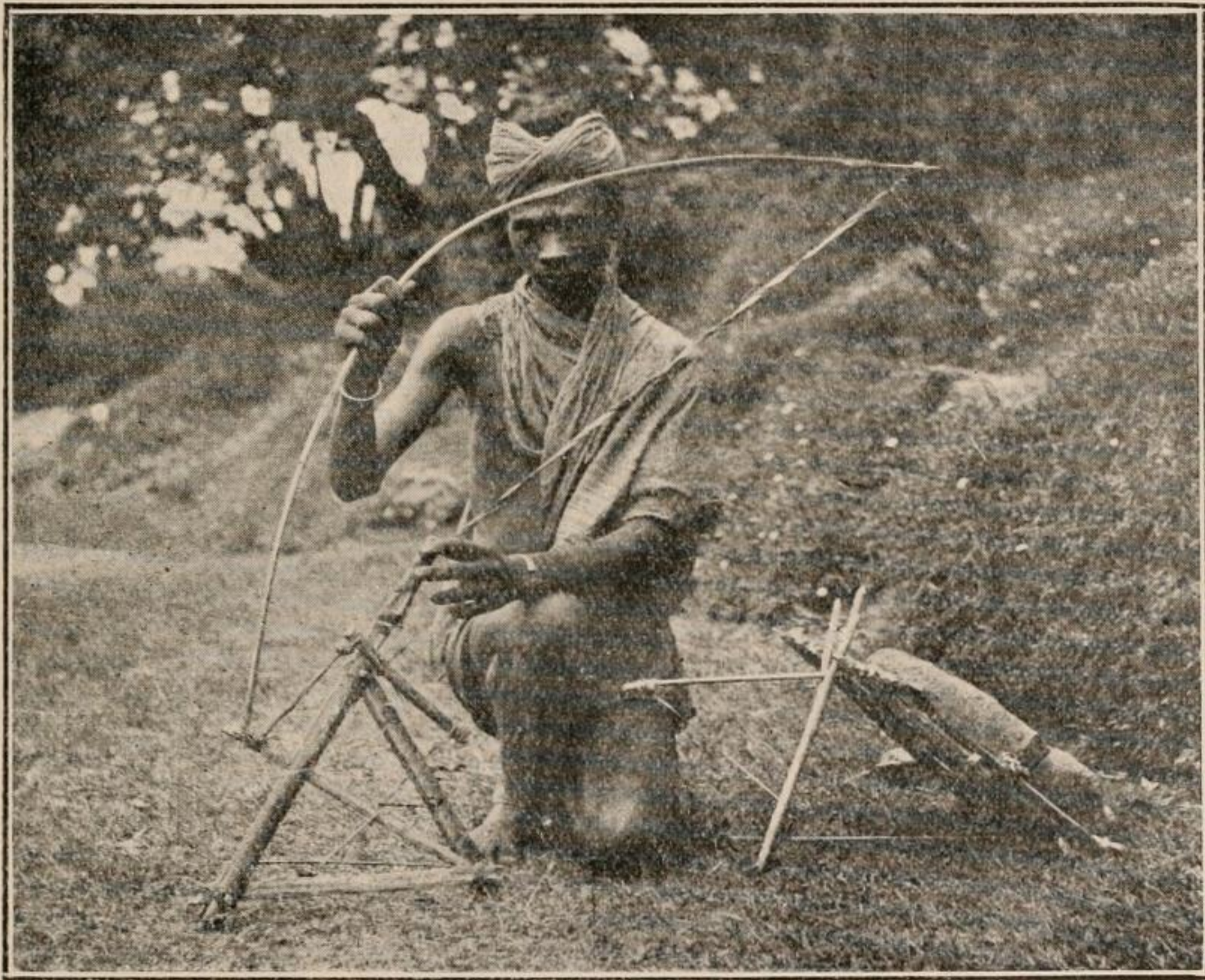
R. W. BURTON, Lt.-Col.,

Indian Army.

BOMBAY, 12th April 1918.

No. XXXIII.—NILGIRI TRAP FOR CATCHING WILD ANIMALS.

The man in the photograph with the trap is an Irula, one of the jungle tribes found on the lower slopes of the Hills in S. India. This particular one comes from below Kil Kotagiri in the Nilgiris. He made these traps



himself of bamboo : the size shown is for small game : such as hares and jungle-fowl. They can be made large enough, I am told, for animals as big as a tiger : at least the fall trap is used for them. Curiously enough this tribe has no weapons for hunting : such as bows and arrows nor slings.

PHILIP GOSSE, Capt., R.A.M.C.

POONA, 27th July 1918.