

this unskilful form, so foreign to the heart of the true hunter, is in this case the most likely to lead to success. The reason of this is that, unlike the ibex of the Himalayas and Central Asia, which can be easily found at any hour of the day, the Nubian ibex, to escape the heat, lies up during the whole of the day among the caves and holes in the rock, and even when feeding, owing to its small size (height at shoulder twenty-eight to thirty inches) and protective colouring, is exceedingly difficult to find among the turmoil of wind-worn crags that form its home. Having obtained the services of some thirty of the local tribesmen, the morning after my arrival I started before dawn to climb to a commanding position known to the two men who accompanied me. Looking back we could see the beaters starting off, in small parties, to take up their allotted positions for the drive. Having discarded all clothing with the exception of a loin cloth and with a spear or stick in their hands, they looked thoroughly in keeping with their wild surroundings. Having taken up a position that allowed of a clear field of fire over a hillside streaked with many goat tracks, I was at liberty to regain my breath and enjoy the sunrise. All round us was a medley of rugged red granite peaks divided by deep-cut wadis. There is no running water in this region, but here and there in dark gorges, where the sun never reaches, are large pools which are replenished by the yearly rains. In these gullies and on the northern slopes quite a large variety of small trees and shrubs flourish. From my lofty position the sea was just visible far to the east. Distant shouting informed us that the drive had commenced, and here and there figures were visible on the sky line. It takes a lot to move these ibex, who rely for their safety more on concealment than flight. Not till large boulders have been hurled down almost on to the top of them will they leave their strongholds and make for a less disturbed locality. As the shouting and rattle of falling boulders approached, several herds of goats began to appear and disappear. Some broke back and others attempted to escape on either flank, but the latter were generally turned in my direction by men skilfully posted for that purpose. Quite one hundred and fifty ibex must have passed me on this occasion in herds of from five to thirty, but there was not a single really big head among the lot. In spite of the urgent entreaties of my companions, I only shot one buck with horns of thirty inches. During the time I spent in this portion of the range large numbers of ibex passed me daily, but, with the exception of a fine old buck that eluded me, I never saw a really large pair of horns. Having become somewhat tired of this form of hunting, which is not of absorbing interest, and having shot three out of the four specimens allowed on the licence, I paid off the beaters and journeyed southwards in search of a really big head. As luck would have it, the very first evening on the new ground, while camp was being pitched, four bucks were spotted among the rocks above. Seizing my rifle and some cartridges, and without any excitable native to worry me, I commenced the stalk and was eventually successful in bagging the best which carried a magnificent pair of horns, 44½ in. in length. This animal, which stood 30 in. at the shoulder, must have been of great age, for the horns, which, in the Nubian ibex, are usually boldly notched, are very smooth for some distance from their base upwards, the knots having been almost completely worn away. As the natives are not allowed to possess firearms, there is no danger of the ibex of the Red Sea Province decreasing in numbers. I have no personal knowledge of them in Egypt, but, judging by the numbers in the Sudan, the limit of four might safely be raised.

SIR EDMUND LODER'S BIG-GAME TROPHIES.

BY H. FRANK WALLACE.

SIR EDMUND LODER'S collection of big-game trophies is world famed, and all sportsmen will be grateful to him for the service he has done them in allowing many of his finest specimens of African game to be exhibited. A few notes with regard to some of them may not be amiss. First come the hartebeest. A good specimen of the Cama, or Cape, hartebeest (*Bubalis cama*) is shown. This variety is distinguished by the greatly elongated horn pedicle and the sharply bent horns. The Cama is, for a hartebeest, a handsome animal. Though now practically exterminated in most of the Orange River Colony and in a great part of the Transvaal, in the Northern Kalahari and the desert districts of the Botletli River they

are still met with in considerable numbers. Another rather rare variety is the typical Korrigum (*Damaliscus corrugum typicus*), or Senegal hartebeest. Sir Edmund's specimen from Lake Chad is about fourth on the list of records, the horns being very massive. The species is found in Senegambia and the interior of West Africa.

Following the hartebeest come the Gnu or Black wildebeest (*Connochætes gnu*), of which Sir Edmund lends the record specimen, measuring, length, 26½ in.; breadth of palm, 7½ in.; tip to tip, 14½ in. This species, the northern range of which was approximately limited by the Vaal, is the true gnu. It is now only preserved through the care of Mr. C. D. Rudd (who also lends an interesting head shot by Roualeyn Gordon Cumming), and other gentlemen interested in its welfare in the Orange River Colony. Its antics and capers have been well illustrated by Mr. J. G. Millais in his "Breath from the Veldt." The rare Situtunga (*Tragelaphus spekei*) is one of the most interesting of the African antelopes, both on account of its secretive habits and wariness and unique physical characteristics. Sir Edmund has lent the second record of the Western variety (*T. s. gratus*) from Gabun. This species is sometimes called the western bushbuck. From West Africa (Gambia) also comes a very fine pair of horns of the Senegambian eland, which is also known as the Giant Lord Derby's eland (*Taurotragus derbianus typicus*).

The short horned races of buffalo (*Bos caffer*), though not so imposing as the typical species, are none the less



GAZELLA LEPTOCEROS.

interesting, and Sir Edmund shows two characteristic heads from the Cameroons and Gabun. A couple of pairs of Gemsbok (*Oryx gazella*) horns come very near the record. This beautiful animal, the finest and handsomest member of the oryx family, is easily distinguished from other members of the same group by the size of its horns and characteristic face markings. Though their numbers in South Africa have been sadly depleted, they are still plentiful in the Northern Kalahari. Other members of the Oryx group lent by Sir Edmund are a mounted head of the rare Arabian oryx (*O. beatrix*), which Mr. Douglas Carruthers is the only Englishman to have shot, and the record Addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*), length, front curve, 39 5-16 in., straight, 34½ in.; circ., 5½ in.; tip to tip, 18½ in. A peculiar characteristic of this animal is its very wide and shallow hoofs, which almost resemble those of the reindeer.

The horns of the beautiful Impala (*Æpyceros melampus petersi*), one of the most graceful of the smaller antelopes, do not in Angola attain the wonderful development that they do in East Africa. The specimen exhibited, though appearing small in comparison with the record heads recently obtained by Mr. J. G. Millais, are nevertheless exceedingly good for this locality. Only one other specimen mentioned in the Sixth Edition of Rowland Ward's records surpasses it. The Dama, Mhoor or Addra gazelle (*Gazella dama*) is the largest of this genus. Sir Edmund exhibits a fine pair

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of horns from Lake Chad. A most interesting series of horns from Algeria are those of the gazelle named after himself, Loder's gazelle (*Gazella leptoceros*). They



TRAGELAPHUS SPEKEI GRATUS.



ORYX GAZELLA.

Loder's puku (*Cobus vardoni loderi*) is known only by the skull shown at the exhibition. The horns are exceptionally massive (length, 21in.; circ., 8in.; tip to tip, 8½in.). The rare North African red deer



ADDAX NASOMACULATUS.

show great variety, ranging from a long, straight form, almost like a Thomson, though a form resembling a miniature Grant, to a widely spread head which is not unlike a tiny Roberts gazelle. The Edmi, or Atlas gazelle (*Gazella cuvieri*), a similar species, is represented by the record pair of horns from Algeria (14½in., 5in., 3½in.). It is found in the mountains of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Sir Edmund also exhibits a pair of horns of a female. Other gazelle lent by him are Speke's gazelle (*G. spekei*) from the plateau of Somaliland (a head lent by Mr. A. H. Straker shows the curious "flabby corrugated elevation of the nose skin"); the record pair of horns of Pelzeln's gazelle (*G. pelzelni*), 14in., 4½in., 4 5-16in., the species which inhabits the lowlands of Somaliland. This variety is slightly larger than the former without the loose nose skin. The Aoul, or Sœmmering's gazelle, also comes from Somaliland (*G. sœmmeringi berberana*), while the Peters' variety of Grant's gazelle (*G. granti petersi*), with its straighter and shorter horns than the typical form, comes from the coast districts of East Africa. Of this species and the gerenuk or Waller's gazelle (*Lithocranius walleri*), Sir Edmund lends specimens which rank third in the list of Rowland Ward's records. Sir Edmund, by the by, is delighted with the manner in which his trophies have been hung by this firm, and the other exhibitors are equally well pleased, as is also the committee. Lastly comes the Dorcas gazelle (*G. dorcas*), from the plains of Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Palestine and Syria, and, to the south, to Nigeria and the Sudan. Of this species also Sir Edmund lends an interesting series of horns from Algeria and Kordofan, including the record for the former locality (13½in., 4½in., 2in.).

(*C. elaphus barbarus*) is represented by the record specimen (length, 38½in.; beam, 5½in.; points, 6 + 5in.) This species is nearly allied to the Corsican red deer, which is somewhat smaller. The bay tines, as in Sir Edmund's specimen, are generally absent.

Other interesting exhibits are the horns of a white rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros simus*) with the greatest recorded circumference (30½in.); a skull and very fine pair of wart-hog tusks (*Phacoceros æthiopicus*), and two splendid canine tusks of a hippopotamus. Of the smaller antelopes, Sir Edmund exhibits a Blue duiker (*Cephalophus monticola*), from Pondoland, a record pair of horns of Harvey's duiker (*C. harveyi*), the horns of another rare animal, Livingstone's suni (*Neotragus livingstonianus*), which come very near the record, and two skulls and horns of the tiny Salt's Dik dik (*Modoqua saltiana*). Mounted heads of this species are also exhibited, showing the elongated trunk-like nose which is a characteristic of the species. It will be seen from the foregoing brief summary how great a debt sportsmen and naturalists owe to Sir Edmund Loder for his generosity in lending so many rare and splendid specimens, and how incomplete would the exhibition have been but for his generous assistance.

A cable was received from Mr. G. Blaine, who is at present in Sierra Leone, placing his magnificent collection of African trophies at the disposal of the committee. Unfortunately it arrived too late to enable them to take full advantage of his generous offer. Two Roan heads are exhibited by him, but visitors to the exhibition will regret not being able to inspect his beautiful Giant eland and fine Leucoryx, in addition to other specimens.



TRAGELAPHUS SCRIPTUS MASAICUS.