

more appropriate title for its particular vital organ than "central station." "Ferro-concrete" is certainly an improvement on "reinforced concrete," but it is a clumsy name for a material which does such important work in civil engineering. A similar case which existed until lately was the need of a substitute for "aërial navigation," but this has been most happily met by the suggested "aviation," a word which is both short in spelling and wieldy in pronunciation.

It is to be hoped that those who have to coin new engineering terms in future will follow the example of the old Dutch chemist and depart as little as possible from three-letter monosyllables. The times are growing too busy for more of the three- and four-syllabled obstructions of physicists and electricians to be tolerated.

A. H. DOWNES-SHAW.

SPORT IN CEYLON.¹

FIFTEEN years' experience of the jungle, even though it be limited to one or two annual hunting trips, ought to suffice to make any keen sportsman (like the author of the volume before us) thoroughly familiar with the habits of all the larger forms of wild animal life to be met with in a circumscribed area somewhat smaller than that of Ireland. Mr. Storey has, however, not been content with his own great practical knowledge of the denizens of the Ceylon jungle and their ways, but has enlisted the aid of a number of his fellow-sportsmen. With such an array of specialists, the book may be re-

Unfortunately, this sport is nothing like what it was when Sir Samuel Baker shot and hunted in the island some sixty years ago, and if matters are permitted to go on as they are, it is the author's opinion that several of the game animals will be in danger of extermination, or at all events will be so reduced in numbers that Ceylon will cease to be a hunting-

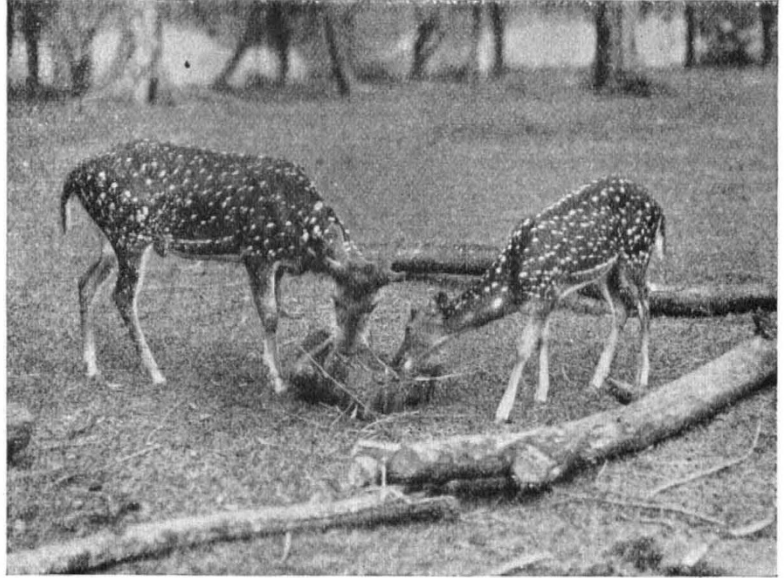


FIG. 2. —Chital or Spotted Deer; the buck with the antlers in velvet. From Storey's "Hunting and Shooting in Ceylon."

field for European sportsmen. The two species most sorely harried appear to be the chital, or spotted deer (Fig. 2), and the elephant. As both probably represent races peculiar to the island, their extermination would be little short of a calamity.

In the case of the chital (and this also applies in a minor degree to the sambar deer) the mischief seems to be due to the killing of this beautiful animal by native hunters for the sake of its flesh, which is cured and dried. The remedy suggested by Mr. Storey is the prohibition of all trade in products of the chase within the island itself, the villagers being, however, permitted to kill such deer as they require for themselves. As regards elephants, of which the author believes there are less than two thousand in the wild state in the island, the destruction appears to be mainly due to the European sportsmen, whose exertions were formerly stimulated by a Government reward for every one of these noble animals slain.

As Ceylon elephants generally have no tusks to speak of, it is a little difficult to see why sportsmen are so keen on shooting them, and it is to be hoped that this destruction may be stopped in the near future. Wild tuskers (not improbably belonging to a race originally imported from the mainland) are now, Mr. Storey tells us, very scarce in the island, although, except in the case of "rogues," they are rigorously protected. Naturalists will be much interested in a giant race of (practically) tuskless elephants living in the Tamankaduwa district which are much larger than the ordinary Ceylon form, and commonly attain a height of between 9 feet and 10 feet.

The author's observations with regard to the wild buffalo of the northern districts of the island, and



FIG. 1.—Head of Ceylon Buffalo. From Storey's "Hunting and Shooting in Ceylon."

regarded as a thoroughly up-to-date account of the sport to be met with at the present day in one of the most lovely of the islands of the East.

¹ "Hunting and Shooting in Ceylon." By H. Storey (and others). Pp. xxiii+365; illustrated. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1907. Price 15s. net.)

the figures of the head he gives (one of which is here reproduced), are likewise of very great interest to naturalists, for they seem to indicate that the Ceylonese animal is a distinct local race of *Bos bubalis*. After stating that the horns are smaller and less regular in form than those of the buffalo of the Indian mainland, Mr. Storey observes that

"In India they seem almost all to curve boldly outward and upwards, finally curving in towards each other at the points. In Ceylon they are very irregular, and usually much shorter, though occasionally they may be more massive than Indian horns. The commonest form are those curving outwards and upwards [in] crescent form, but not with the bold, almost half-circular, sweep of the Indian heads."

In this place it may be mentioned that as the author is not a photographer, he has been compelled to borrow the admirable photographs of scenery and animals with which the volume is illustrated from friends and brother-sportsmen. To one of these we have already alluded; a second, showing the most beautiful of all Ceylonese animals, is reproduced as an example of the general excellence of the pictures.

Like all the big-game animals of the island, the chital is specifically the same as its Indian representative. The very fact that tigers are unknown in the island is, however, itself practically sufficient to indicate that all these animals are racially distinct from the mainland forms.

Although big-game animals naturally form the main theme, the author has something to say regarding smaller game, and likewise gives much information with regard to the physical characters and scenery of the country; while the requirements of novices contemplating a sporting trip are not forgotten. Although confessedly written from the point of view of the sportsman rather than naturalist, Mr. Storey's volume contains much which appeals to both classes, while it may likewise be commended as a delightful description of a tropical country to the general reader.

THE DEATH OF M. M. BERTHELOT.

THE tragic death of M. Marcellin Berthelot on Monday has awakened a feeling of sympathetic sorrow throughout the intellectual world. As a chemist, philosopher, a fearless exponent of scientific truth, and permanent secretary of the Paris Academy of Sciences, M. Berthelot's work and influence made him renowned among the greatest men of our time. The French nation has to mourn the loss of one of its leading citizens, and its sorrow is shared wherever knowledge and research are cherished.

Several conflicting accounts of the dramatic circumstances of M. Berthelot's death appeared in Tuesday's papers. One report states that he expired clasping the hand of his wife, who had been ill for a year and had crossed the dark river a few minutes before. According to another account, M. Berthelot was sitting in his study when the news of his wife's death was brought to him by a nurse, and he fell back in his chair dead. The *Times* correspondent states that when M. Berthelot entered his wife's room on Monday he found her dead, and the shock was so great that he returned to his study and there died suddenly himself.

France knows how to honour its illustrious men, so it is not surprising to learn that at the opening of Tuesday's sitting the French Government proposed to grant a credit of 500,000 francs for a national funeral for M. Berthelot, and to adjourn the sitting as a sign

of mourning. A similar expression of sympathy took place in the Senate, and the Academy of Medicine likewise adjourned its sitting. We learn from the *Times* that there will be no religious service in honour of the dead. The national civil funeral has been accepted by the family on the understanding that Mme. Berthelot should not be separated from her husband, who could not live after her.

We propose to give an account of M. Berthelot's life and work in another issue, and here limit ourselves to the expression of deep regret at his sad death, and of satisfaction that the French nation has so clearly shown its high regard for the great man it has just lost.

NOTES.

THE Goldsmiths' Company has made a donation of 10,000*l.* to the Lawes Agricultural Trust (Rothamsted Experimental Station) to be devoted to research in connection with the soil, and to be known as the Goldsmiths' Company's fund for soil investigation.

MR. A. LAURENCE ROTCH, the founder and director of Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory, has been appointed professor of meteorology in Harvard University. The Blue Hill observations and investigations have been published for many years in the *Annals of the Harvard College Observatory*.

AT the annual general meeting of the Chemical Society on Friday, March 22, the president, Prof. R. Meldola, F.R.S., will deliver an address entitled "The Position and Prospects of Chemical Research in Great Britain."

MR. W. H. POWER, C.B., F.R.S., medical inspector of the Local Government Board, has been appointed chairman of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, in succession to the late Sir Michael Foster.

THE *Times* correspondent at Ottawa reports that on Tuesday a deputation of representative Canadians asked for a Federal grant towards the erection of a national memorial at Brantford, Ontario, in honour of Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, who invented the telephone in that city. In reply, Sir Wilfrid Laurier expressed himself in hearty sympathy with the movement.

A MINISTERIAL measure having for its object the amendment of the Patent Law was introduced in the House of Commons on Tuesday. The main purpose of the Bill is to prevent the patent laws from being used for the hindrance and suppression of British industrial development. It is proposed to simplify the procedure of compulsory licence, and instead of the applicant having to go before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, as at present, he will go, first of all, before the Controller and afterwards before a judge specially selected by the Lord Chancellor, who will be habitually dealing with patent cases. This method will tend very considerably to shorten the hearing of cases, because they will be dealt with by an expert judge. The Bill also provides that any applicant can go to the Controller three years after the granting of any patent and apply for the revocation of the patent on the ground that it has not been adequately worked within the United Kingdom. In addition to compulsory working, syndicates are to be enforced to deposit samples when the Patent Office requires them to do so, or else their application will be refused.

THE Geologists' Association has arranged an excursion to Plymouth from Thursday, March 28, to Tuesday,