

The strenuous life of a hunter-naturalist in Sub-Arctic America, among the Ogilvie and Selwyn Rockies and Pelly Mountains, about the headwaters of the rivers Macmillan, Pelly, and Ross, in 1904 and 1905, is related in Mr. Charles Sheldon's "Wilderness of the Upper Yukon." The work reveals a keen observer and skilful recorder of the animal life of the northern wilderness whose facile pen enlivens the narrative of camp routine or oft-repeated story of successful chase or stalk of the mountain sheep, caribou, moose, or grizzly bear, amid crags and snowfields above timber-line or in forest fastnesses. Photographs of his trophies — magnificent bighorn rams, taken as they lay victims of his cunning and marksmanship — abound in the book. The author is primarily a sportsman, and defends the bloody and ruthless extermination of these superb animals on the ground of his love of nature!

"The hunter-sportsman is a strange combination, possessed by the fascination of hunting and killing the animals that he loves. . . . I never knew a true hunter, be he the rough pioneer or the cultured man, who did not have an intense fondness for the wild animals, a strong interest in studying them and protecting them, and also a desire to alleviate and prevent their suffering; yet there still persists his paradoxical love of hunting and killing them. . . . The time may come when most of us will undertake to work, endure, and suffer the hardships of the wilderness, prompted only for love of it for its own sake. But to many of us, in our present state, hunting prevents the mere contemplative indulgence in the beautiful from producing effeminateness." Blood is not the only, and possibly not the best, sustenance upon which to rear a virile race. The instinct of play and the love of nature do not, for most normal men, need the rifle or shotgun for their adequate expression. The long ranged Mannlicher and split-nosed bullets in the hands of sportsmen in a few more years will completely exterminate all the big game animals of the wilderness of the Northwest unless governmental protection shall effectively preserve them for the enjoyment of

\*THE WILDERNESS OF THE UPPER YUKON. A Hunter's Explorations for Wild Sheep in Sub-Arctic Regions. By Charles Sheldon. With forty-seven plates from photographs, four colored plates from paintings by Carl Rungius, and four maps. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

A VOYAGE TO THE ARCTIC IN THE WHALER AURORA. By David Moore Lindsay, F.R.G.S. Illustrated by fifty-six plates from photographs. Boston: Dana Estes & Co.

THE LIFE OF A TIGER. By S. Eardley-Wilmot, C.I.E., Author of "Forest Life and Sport in India." Illustrated by Iris Eardley-Wilmot. New York: Longmans, Green & Co.

THE ANIMALS AND THEIR STORY. By W. P. Westell, F.L.S., M.B.O.U. With one hundred photographs and eight colored plates by W. S. Berridge, F.Z.S. Boston: Dana Estes & Co.

later generations. The plea that the sportsman's bloody business is a necessary panacea for effeminateness in lovers of the wilderness and mountain heights, seems inconclusive if not indeed immoral. Some very illuminating observations are recorded in this book concerning the keenness of the power of scent and its dominance over vision in the controlling behavior of these wild and timid creatures of the crags, as well as some practical and seemingly well-founded criticisms of Thayer's theory of concealing coloration as applied to these animals in their native environment. The book has good maps, scientific appendixes, colored plates after paintings by the artist Rungius made in the field, and abundant and generally admirable illustrations (barring those of the carcasses) picturing the scenery of mountain and stream, the trophies of the hunt, and the features of camp-life in the wilderness.

The havoc which man plays with the animal life of the land is exceeded, if possible, by his exploitation of the mammals of the sea. A very clear idea of the nature and extent of this wholesale slaughter can be gained from Mr. David Moore Lindsay's "Voyage to the Arctic in the Whaler Aurora," which recounts the experiences of a surgeon-naturalist on a trip from Dundee to the seal fisheries of Newfoundland and a whaling cruise in Greenland waters. The Aurora took 28,150 seals on this cruise, and the annual yield of these fisheries is from 300,000 to 600,000 seals. Improved methods in capture and more rigorous search for the booty have led to a gradual falling off in the catch, as in the case of the whale fisheries, though petroleum and the electric light are in part responsible for the decline of the latter. The author gives a very interesting and extremely vivid account of the daily routine on a whaler, and relates many an exciting tale of adventure and disaster amid the storms, the darkness, and the drifting ice, in the midst of which the hardy race of fisher-folk ply their venturesome trade and win a meagre and fluctuating reward for their labors. Additional interest attaches to this work because of the fact that the "Aurora" in the cruise here narrated took part in the search for the ill-fated Greely Expedition. The book is handsomely illustrated with over sixty reproductions from photographs. It is replete with information pertaining to actual operations in the whaling and sealing industries, and abounds in whaler's lore.

The portrayal of the natural history of the tiger, king of the Indian jungle, is the aim of Mr. S. Eardley-Wilmot's "The Life of a Tiger."

It takes the form of a biographical sketch, into which fanciful outline has been woven the experiences and observations of one evidently familiar at first hand with the sport of tiger hunting and the varied and interesting life of the Indian jungle. The work is exceptionally well written, and is free from those exaggerations, sentimentalities, and forced anthropomorphisms, which not infrequently mar the efforts of those who seek to reveal the life of the wilds or to stimulate the reader's interest in natural history. One feels that it is a real tiger in an actual jungle whose vicissitudinous life and sad end the author relates. The numerous artistic pen-sketches and photographs illustrative of the life of the jungle are worthy of the text.

A somewhat matter-of-fact and circumstantial account of the mammals to be seen in most well-stocked zoölogical gardens is to be found in Mr. W. P. Westell's "The Animals and their Story." He assort his menagerie, according to the nature of the habitats of the animals composing it, into denizens of the forest and jungle, of the plains and deserts, of the hills and mountains, and the prowlers of the night. This division leads to some incongruity, for we find the American timber-wolf treated as a part of the fauna of the plains and deserts, the wapiti as belonging to the hills and mountains, and the beaver as a prowler of the night. The work is descriptive in character, and is supplemented by apt quotations from authorities on matters of interest or mooted questions — such, for example, as the non-protective character of the striping of the zebra. A very valuable feature of the work lies in the hundred or more excellent photographs, by Mr. W. S. Berridge, of animals from life, some of which are indeed most happy poses quite free from straining bars or paddocks which detract from the æsthetic value of certain otherwise effective pictures. The eight colored plates are happy in design but ineffectively executed. The book will be a valuable addition to the reference libraries of our schools whose pupils have access to a zoölogical garden.

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