among peoples or tribes certainly most imperfectly civilised—a more ample extension of the organs subservient to sensation, the same effect being thus produced by lateral expansion as by the forward extension of the facial bones in the prognathous skulls, &c., &c.

There are, however, many quotations from St. John, Jesse, and Ruxton, of a more lively and redeeming character; and, in particular, we have derived, in common with the author and his readers, considerable relief from a passage from the writings of Sidney Smith, on the *anima brutorum*, in which he says he feels quite at home about the superiority of mankind.

"I feel so sure," he says, "that the blue ape without a tail will never rival us in poetry, painting, and music, that I see no reason whatever that justice may not be done to the few fragments of soul and tatters of understanding which they may really possess. I have sometimes, perhaps, felt a little uneasy at Exeter 'Change, from contrasting the monkeys with the 'prentice boys who were teasing them; but a few pages of Locke, or a few lines of Milton, have always restored me to tranquillity, and convinced me that the superiority of man had nothing to fear."

Well, that's a comfort. It would be an awful affair if the blue-nosed ape without a tail were to write a treatise on human reason and instinct, after the fashion of Mr Atkinson, and we had to read and review it.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS ON NATURAL HISTORY.

WOODCOCK'S NEST IN HAMPSHIRE.—There was a nest of the above bird, containing four eggs, found in a covert near here on the 3rd instant.—PATHFINDER (Millbrook).

BLACK HARE.—Reading so many reports in THE FIELD about white hares, I beg to say that a few days since I saw a stuffed specimen of a black hare, which was killed on Sir Robert Peel's Drayton property.—S. S. S. (Warwickshire)

THE CUCKOO made its appearance here on the 2nd inst., which is early for this locality.—J. PAGE (Manchester).—[In the neighbourhood of London the cuckoo is rarely heard until a fortnight later: this early appearance at Manchester is very unusual.—ED.]

ARRIVAL OF SWALLOWS.—In reference to remarks in last week's FIELD, I may say that a friend called my attention to one or two swallows on March 29 (Good Friday) in the neighbourhood of Narberth, Pembrokeshire. This was several days earlier than either of those mentioned by your correspondents.—TYRO.

PARASITES.—With reference to Mr Buckland's observation in last FIELD, that different species of animals are invested by distinct species of parasites, I beg to call his attention to Denny's "Monographia Anoplurorum Britanniæ," where the parasites adhering to the animals inhabiting Great Britain are fully described, with highly-magnified figures of each species.—J. K. (Greenock.)

PERIOD OF GESTATION IN THE BADGER.—Mr Henry Shaw's extraordinary statement in THE FIELD, April 6, under this heading, induces me to repeat the inquiry. In Cornwall I have hunted the badger both by night and day, but am quite ignorant of the term of gestation, nor do my works on natural history inform me. Will some of your readers throw a light on Mr Shaw's letter?—S. S. S. (Warwickshire.)

OCCURRENCE OF THE HOOPOE AT ST. LEONARDS.—I have obtained a fine specimen of the hoopoe, shot this morning. I have also two adult male hen-harriers, a pair of great spotted woodpeckers (*Picus major*), male and female, and a lesser spotted woodpecker (*Picus minor*), male. All of them have been recently shot in this neighbourhood.—ROBERT KENT (St. Leonards-on-Sea, April 22).

MOORHENS PERCHING ON TREES.—As I was walking out a short time since I disturbed some moorhens on a pond, and could not discover to what part they had flown; a day or two ago I was surprised to find (on passing the same piece of water) that they flew to some fir-trees on the banks. As until this time I had no idea they could perch on branches, would you let me know if this is a common occurrence?—H. L. G.—[This is quite a common occurrence: we have frequently seen them roosting in trees.—ED.]

ANECDOTE OF A CAT.—A kitten was left in a house near where I live, its mother having been taken away some days before. There was a sale by auction, and when the house was crowded with persons, a fine male cat, supposed to be very nearly related to the kitten, made its way between people's legs to where the kitten was, and, taking it in its mouth, carried it to its own home. Tom on ordinary occasions is shy, and would certainly not go near a crowd. The kitten was not in the catalogue, and so no objection was made to the removal.—J. PAGE (Manchester).

ARRIVAL OF SWALLOWS, &c.—On Monday evening last, on passing Biffa (Wharfedale, Yorkshire) I observed the first and only swallow I have noticed this season in the neighbourhood.—B. T. C.

—I saw a quantity of sand martins flying about the river Test, on Saturday, April 13, and on Sunday there were a few house martins made their appearance here, though I have not seen one of them since. I saw and heard the wryneck ten or twelve days ago. The nightingale I heard last evening (April 23) for the first time this season.—PATHFINDER (Millbrook).

THE VARIABLE HARE.—In my letter in THE FIELD of March 30, it should have been stated that the woodcut to the left represented the palate and upper tusk of *L. timidus*, that to the right of *L. variabilis*. In the seventh paragraph from the top, read, "But I rather fancy the *L. Hibernicus* will be found to be identical with our *L. canescens;* and I think it yet remains to be clearly proved whether we have in Europe," &c. In the second paragraph from the top, for "fjäll-harre, or moharre" read "fjäll-harre, or nord-harre."—AN OLD BUSHMAN (Gardsjö, pril 18).

THE AMERICAN RABBIT.—Some time ago there was a dispute in THE FIELD about the Canadian and American rabbit. I have just received a skin of one from my friends over in Canada; the head, ears, and legs complete, though not a very good one. If it would be of any interest to you, I shall be very happy to leave it or send it to your office.—[We should be very glad of having an opportunity of examining this, and shall be much obliged for the loan of the skin for that purpose.—ED.]

PLANT FOR AQUARIUMS.—A friend of mine, having heard of a plant which if placed in an aquarium prevents the water from becoming stagnant, has requested me to endeavour to find out the name of it. I shall feel greatly obliged if you or any of your correspondents can give me information concerning it.—EAST SUSSEX.—[Many plants serve this purpose. *Udora canadensis*, sold by all aquarium dealers, is decidedly the best, because of its tenacity of life. It is next to impossible to destroy its vitality; it is, moreover, most abundant in every ditch and canal round London. Every dealer in aquariums has it on sale under the name of common water-weed, or *Anacharis*.—ED.]

NAME OF HAWK.—I have just caught a beautiful specimen of the hawk; it is very finely marked, the breast being all brown spots, and the back of a bluish colour; it is about the size of a pouter pigeon. Could any of your readers let me know if it is possible to tame an old bird, and what would be the best method; and if they are aware to what breed this bird belongs? It is altogether a noble bird. It has as yet taken no food, and I fear it may die of starvation.—BURNBRAE.—[We suppose the bird to be a male kestrel, but of course cannot pronounce positively. The great object to accomplish is to prevent him from injuring himself; his appetite will be sure to come.—ED.]

THE GELINOTTE.—I am much obliged to your correspondent, the "Old Bushman," for answering some of my inquiries touching the gelinotte. I would, however, beg to inform him that the fir plantations about me, in Berkshire, are not mere belts, and what with mine and those of my neighbours, I suppose there must be hard upon 2000 acres of fir (not in one mass, certainly, but still the plantations adjoin one another). Will this change his opinion? I rather imagine, however, that the gelinotte requires an elevated region; and on this point I should feel obliged for the "Old Bushman's" opinion, and that of any other of your correspondents who are acquainted with the habits of the bird.—HIGFORD BURR.

NAMES OF TWO MOTHS.—I inclose two moths, with their crysalides, and shall feel obliged by your being so good as to tell me the name of each. The larva of the smaller specimen is a disgusting grub found in the earth, which it resembles in colour, frequently discovered in potato ridges, and among agriculturists denominated a cut-worm. The other specimen is from a large and beautiful caterpillar of a pea-green colour. This I placed in a box in September last; in a few days it assumed the chrysalis form, and having been placed in my greenhouse disburthened itself yesterday of its shell.—THEBECTES (April 20).—[The larger one is *Smerinthus populi*, the smaller *Biston betularius*. Both are too common, their caterpillars devouring vast quantities of foliage. The caterpillar of *Biston betularius* only enters the earth to undergo its change to a chrysalis.—ED.]

THE FIELDFARE BREEDING IN SCOTLAND.—I made an assertion in THE FIELD of Dec. 8 that fieldfares sometimes breed in Scotland, and that I expected to send an egg and bird to you in spring. I now beg you to kindly insert a description of the inclosed bird and egg; the latter I have not blown, in case some of your correspondents might disbelieve their having been found in Stirlingshire, especially as this season they are hatching earlier than usual. I am glad to have it in my power to teach some of your readers something concerning what has been written in your very interesting and instructive publication during the months of November and December 1860. This is a magnificent hatching season; flies and snails abound.—J. C. (Glasgow.)—[The opinion expressed on the publication of J. C.'s former letter is now borne out by fact. The skin is that of a missel-thrush, and the egg is that of the same species.—ED.]

CUCKOO IN CONFINEMENT.—Happening on Wednesday to go into the house of a tenant of mine, I was surprised to see in a cage a cuckoo alive, which had been in their possession since last July, and of course has been preserved through the winter, although it was a very severe one. It appears very tame and tractable, but only now like a young bird half-feathered, though the feathers are the colour of an old bird. I have made particular inquiry of the persons how they kept it through the winter. They state that during the winter it was entirely destitute of feathers, and was constantly kept wrapped up in flannel in a basket by the fire night and day, was taken out three or four times a day to be fed, which food consisted, and does now, of raw eggs, beat up and mixed with raw meat (beef generally) cut very small. It feeds itself, but in the winter ate very little indeed, and seemed very feeble. Having several times seen notices of the hairy coating of the cuckoo's stomach, I beg to say I believe the hair is owing to their feeding on the hairy caterpillars of the tiger-moth, &c., which hair adheres to the lining of the stomach, as I have frequently dissected their stomachs and always found them free from this hairy coating when they first arrive and for some time after; but later in the season, when there are plenty of hairy caterpillars about, the inside of their stomach almost resembles the back of a young mouse.—MELTONIAN.

DUN HORSES.—I should esteem it a great favour if some of your numerous readers would take the trouble to give me any facts on the colour of the two parents of true dun horses. I mean by true duns, horses having a stripe or list along the spine, and often transverse stripes on the legs, the general colouring being either a mouse-dun or a tint which may be described as a creamy bay or chesnut. I am aware from inquires made in Norway, where true dun ponies are extremely common, that one or both parents are there always duns; and so it is, as I am informed, with the dun ponies of Devonshire. But I have occasionally seen dun cart-horses and hacks, which did not seem to have the blood of any pony or cob in them. It is surprising how often I have vainly asked the parentage of such horses, and vainly made inquiries from breeders. I have myself seen one colt, bred from a black mare and bay horse, which might certainly be called a dun, and which had a narrow, but strongly defined, spinal stripe before it shed its first hair. I should be much obliged for any information on this subject; and likewise whether a dun horse or pony is always dun-coloured before it sheds its first hair. Does the spinal stripe often disappear when the first coat is shed?—CHARLES DARWIN (Down, Bromley, Kent.)

FEROCITY OF THE BADGER.—It has been somewhat disputed whether Master Brock is a simple inoffensive hermit, living on roots and other plain diet, or a wolf in sheep's clothing of omnivorous propensities, not particular to a shade whether fish, flesh, or fowl form his bill of fare. I had the following anecdote a few days ago from one of my old women; and, whether true or not, I can vouch that the old lady had told it so often that she fully believed it herself. "Ah!" said she, during a conversation on foreign parts in general and the blessings of home in particular, "there's a sight of wild beasts abroad, to be sure; and folks didn't ought to leave their children about in the fields here in England like. I mind when I was in Northamptonshire, down overwart Oundle, there was a poor woman left her baby asleep under a hedge, while she were at broad-work, and when she come back the child were gone clean. Howsomdever, one of the men he puts his dinner down in the same place and watches, and presently up comes one of them great grewsome badgers, and makes off with he's dinner. He starts after her, and comes to her hole, and sure enough there lay all as was left of the little baby—part of the head and one of the hands—badger and little 'uns had ate all the rest. Uncommon savage they be, them badgers, when they ha' kindled." The old woman is positive as to the above facts; had seen the baby often; it was six months old when it was took by the badger. Query, should we be justified from coincidences in the account in saying that it was "the badgers" who ate up Jezebel?—J. H.

THE MASKED GULL.—The announcement by Dr. Bree of his possessing a living specimen of this rare bird must, I am sure, be of very great interest to all ornithologists, for it is one on whose specific distinctness naturalists are not yet quite agreed. Without wishing to throw the slightest doubt on Dr. Bree's statement, but, at the same time, remembering how many reputed specimens of the masked gull have proved to be only small examples of the black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*), I am tempted to criticise one part of his description—that referring to the "black about the head." Dr. Bree knows something about birds, and should know that one of the special characters of the masked gull is that the dark part of the head is said to be of a decided brown, and not of a brownish-black, as in the black-headed gull. The extent of the mask is also of great importance, especially when the bird has its head raised and its neck outstretched. I believe few persons who have not seen the black-headed gull alive in confinement are aware how much the position of the posterior margin of the dark colour of the head in that species varies with the changes in the attitude of the bird. When the head is lowered between the shoulders, in the ordinary quiescent state, the outline of the coloured part is precisely the same as that represented in the figure of the masked gull; a perpendicular line drawn from the top of the head bounds the coloured portion. If, however, the head be raised, the skin is pulled over the occiput, and the boundary line is then at an angle of about 45 degrees. I do not make this statement without authority, for, during the last few weeks, I have been paying particular attention to some black-headed gulls, now in splendid plumage, at the Zoological Gardens; and I am sure Dr. Bree would confer a very great favour on the many ornithologists in London if he would permit his bird to be placed by the side of these gulls, if only for a few weeks. On the part of the society I will guarantee that his bird shall be as well cared for as those now in the gardens; and the condition of these black-headed gulls is everything that can be desired.—E. W. H. HOLDSWORTH.

IS THE BRIDLED GUILLEMOT A RARE BIRD?—Sir William Jardine, "Naturalists' Library," Vol. IV., p. 219 says: "The claim of the bridled guillemot to a place in the British list rests on the authority of Mr Gould, who states, in his 'Birds of Europe,' that it breeds on the coast of Wales; while Mr Yarrell writes that, since Mr Gould's description, it has been taken on the coasts of both Yorkshire and Durham. We have never had the good fortune to meet with it in Scotland, nor do the fishermen or inhabitants near the breeding-places—almost always very correct in their distinctions of the creatures frequenting their vicinity—know it." And although I have had opportunities of seeing great numbers of the genus *Uria*, especially two years ago (when from some unexplained mortality amongst them vast shoals of their dead bodies were to be seen floating on the adjacent firth and neighbouring salt-water lochs), yet I have never observed a single specimen. But on Thursday, the 18th inst., among a number I had that day "procured," I was delighted to find an unquestionable—in fact, the unmistakable—*Uria lacrymans*, the white ring surrounding the eye arresting attention at once. However, the late Professor M'Gillivray states that he has observed it in the Frith of Forth, and seems to insinuate that it is only a variety of *Uria troile*; but he does not appear to have bestowed the same attention to this bird that he has paid to the rest of the feathered race. The following fact in regard to the guillemots and razor-bills I have never seen taken notice of by any writer on ornithology. It is well known that these birds, when pursued, instead of rising from the water, generally endeavour to make their escape by diving, when their submarine course may be traced with unerring certainty by the air-bells which appear on the surface. Perhaps some of your scientific correspondents may be able to give an explanation of the cause of those air-bells appearing.—J. K. (Greenock).

EAGLES OFFERED HOSPITALITY.—I am truly gratified to learn, through THE FIELD, that a pair of eagles have been allowed to winter in safety at Holkham. This was a truly exemplary act on the part of the noble owner, which we may hope that other possessors of our great first-rate parks and domains in the south of England will be proud to follow. At Ravensworth Castle, in the county of Durham, an asylum was, in the same generous love of natural history, afforded a few years ago during a whole winter (as I was informed) to an eagle which had come and taken up its abode there. In Huln Park and Chillingham Park, in Northumberland, eagles not unfrequently make their appearance, to feed upon fallen deer and on the carcases of sheep which may die upon the neighbouring moors. Over the heather outside of the first-mentioned of these two parks, in October 1836, I observed, as I was passing on horseback, an eagle somewhat lazily circling round a solitary whin-bush, in observation of a hare, which kept close to the latter, and, each time its enemy approached, availed itself of such imperfect shelter as the scraggy whin afforded. I watched them during three or four minutes, when ultimately, the eagle taking a wider wheel, the hare broke covert and made off, but in a stupified and confused manner, to a large and secure bed of whins near at hand. It was a dark-brown yearling eagle, and evidently, from its demeanour, only half hungry at the time. It withdrew into Huln Park, and on my mentioning the occurrence in Alnwick, I was told that the bird had been observed several times in the park. I rejoice to say it was not destroyed. Of other eagles seen by me in Northumberland I hope to speak on some future opportunity. One of them, on being disturbed from the carcase of a sheep, retreated into Chillingham Park. An eagle was reported to me in January last by a near relative of mine (to whom the aspect of eagles on the wing is well known), on reaching my house a few hours after he had seen it, near to Heppal on the Coquet. It was a dark immature bird, apparently engaged in hunting over the river-side and adjoining fields for food, after which it took off to the high moors. But at present I wish to advert to the ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD (which is a perfect eagle in miniature), to show the regularity with which this migratory bird will return to winter quarters where it finds hospitality. During fourteen years one of these came (with the omission of only three years, when it was not observed), and wintered in our plantations overlooking a river-side and extensive pastures. Pheasants, partridge, woodpigeons, and full-grown rabbits were numerous where it haunted, and my keeper never had any reason to suspect it of molesting any of them, unless, perhaps, sickly and dying cushats. Its food appeared to be moles, water-rats, mice, and frogs; probably, also, carrion, especially moles taken by the molecatcher. Buzzards, however, are described as being adepts at capturing moles, when these are in the act of casting up their hillocks, the bird alighting on the ground close by, and then suddenly, when the earth of the hillock is seen to move, making a spring and plunging both feet into the heap, so as to grasp the unlucky miner at his work. Our rough-legged buzzard had a stately mode of flight, quite aquiline in character, as was also the colouring of his plumage, especially the underwing. That it was the same bird which returned year after year could not be doubted, since his plumage became gradually lighter in colour and more distinct in its contrasts of white and brown. Many and many a day's shooting has he contemplated from the top of a larch, shifting as we advanced and keeping always well out of harm's way, notwithstanding that every one knew he was never to be injured. I suspect he came to his end rather by water than by fire, and somewhere near Sir Patrick Spence, on the passage between our shores and Norway.—R. C.

ANSWERS

MIGRATION OF FIELDFARES.—In reply to S. S. S., I beg to say that I unintentionally omitted to give the locality where I observed the flight of fieldfares "on the move eastward on the 7th inst." I now supply the omission. It was within a few miles of the city of Gloucester. I am quite aware in making observations on the habits—more particularly the migratory habits—of birds, the utility is much increased by naming the *locale*. I may add, that since the period I mentioned, I have not seen a single fieldfare in the neighbourhood of Gloucester.—J. H. C.

COCK GROUSE AND IRISH FOWLS.—I read Mr. Warren's letter in THE FIELD of the 13th with much interest, for exactly the same thing has happened to me while shooting in the south of Ireland, only without the abusive old woman. I do not pretend to say how far the cock grouse may be the ancestor of the small Irish fowl, but I perfectly agree with Mr. Warren when he says the chickens on mountain farms are often very grousy-looking, and with feathered legs. I have frequently remarked it myself, and, on inquiry, the tenants have told me that they often saw old grouse with their hens, and quite at home with them; and so bold were they that they would allow a person to come quite close before they would take wing, and then fly crowing a little way off.—SPHINX.

THE GASTRIC-JUICE QUESTION.—It is clearly unnecessary to prolong this controversy. The Hon. G. F. Berkeley's question has been already answered. I ought not, perhaps, to enlarge upon the "new ground," *i.e.*, on the parasites—but my respected Linnæan colleague, Dr. Bree, has erred in asserting the presence of true flukes (*Distomata*) in the brains of animals, the *Diplostomum* of the lamprey (*D. Petromyzi fluviatilis* of Müller) being the only *allied* entozoon actually found in the brain. Abundance of other forms (not flukes) of internal parasites, as Dr. Bree hints, do dwell in and upon the cerebrum of birds, quadrupeds, reptiles, and fishes. The circumstance of *Trichina spiralis* causing death to man, if authentic, is unique. I beg respectfully to doubt it. Dr. Bree will, I hope, privately favour me with a reference to Kölliker's paper. I have seen every voluntary muscle of the body of a man crowded with myriads of *Trichinæ*, but, during life, the patient never suffered the slightest inconvenience from their presence. I may mention that Leuckart's recent researches disprove the notion that *Trichinæ* are the young of *Trichocephalus*. My breeding experiments on this score have also been attended with negative results.—T. SPENCER COBBOLD, M.D., F.L.S. (London).

CRICKETS.—I regret to say that crickets are very easily exterminated, for I like their chirping notes, and it is curious that out of a colony of myriads only about four or five will ever strike up at the same time; but whether this noise is produced by rubbing their legs together (like the grass-hoppers), or by their tiny throats, I am still ignorant. Should only one or two happen to find their way to a fireplace, they become very noisy. Cats are exceedingly fond of them, and as long as they can capture this poisonous food they will take none other, and eventually die from the use of it. As far as my observation goes, crickets do not occur in coal-districts in Ireland, but enjoy the vicinity of turf fires. A box, with holes in the top or sides, containing a little common salt or oatmeal, placed in a room where these insects abound, will soon capture them all. A herdsman of mine destroyed millions in this way, and while taking them out of his house to throw them into water, several escaped into an old well, and ever since (in the summer and autumn months) they continue their extraordinary, and, to me, interesting music. Of course I only advocate their presence in such positions, or in an outhouse, for they are not nice to look at, and will devour even tables and chairs.—A GOOD OBSERVER (Roscrea).—[We cannot agree with our correspondent as to the preference shown by cats for crickets as food. We individually (that is the Natural History Editor) are greatly infested with cats and crickets, and have never seen the cats notice the crickets or the crickets notice the cats. The song of the cricket is certainly not vocal; it is produced by rubbing the wing-cases together, as recorded by De Geer, Gilbert White, John Ray, and Kirby and Spence.—ED.]

EXPEDITION TO THE NORTH POLE BY A NEW ROUTE.—TROMSÖ, NORWAY.—Two of the participators in the Swedish expedition to Spitzbergen, viz., Professor Nordenskjold and Lieut. Liljehoof, have been staying here for a short time in order to make the necessary preparations. They have hired a sloop, which is to be specially fitted up inside, and sheathed; but it is said that they are in treaty for the English steamer which lately went to Greenland for the purpose of making soundings for the Transatlantic telegraph. From Spitzbergen it is their intention to push on to the north as far as they can go; it will be, in fact, an expedition to the North Pole by a new route, which in any case is somewhat easier for a part of the way than that previously tried. Amongst the other participators Dr. Goes has since arrived with a great number of dogs for drawing.

DRONTHEIM, NORWAY.—By the Nidelven there have arrived some of the gentlemen who will join in the Swedish expedition to Spitzbergen under the command of Magister Thorell, who is expected here overland in a few days. They have brought with them a quantity of hermetically-preserved provisions, as well as other kinds of food and requisites, amongst which are an ice-boat, and also five Greenland dogs, which are remarkable for their strikingly wolf-like appearance, especially about the neck and form of the tail; the colour, also, in a great degree resembles the wolf, and they howl in the same manner. They are, however, much smaller than that animal.

BOTANIST.

WILD PARSNIP.—Many thanks to your fair correspondent Helen W. for her communication in last week's FIELD; though widely differing from my own opinion on the subject, still it is the only way of eliciting the truth. The plant mentioned by me as the marsh hog's-fennel (*Peucedanum palustre*) appears to be unknown to Helen W., as it is likewise to myself, my authority being the Rev. C. A. Johns, and stated by him as growing in Yorkshire, Lancashire, &c. Of its congener, *Peucedanum officinale*, Sir J. E. Smith remarks, "Many stimulating qualities have been attributed to the root, but it would seem to be dangerous for internal use;" and Miss Pratt, in her "Poisonous Plants of our Fields and Woods," says, "the roots are fœtid and acrid, and their juice, if used internally, is very stimulating and dangerous." It is well known to botanists that situation has a great effect on the properties of the *Umbelliferæ*. In this neighbourhood the soil is generally dry and chalky, and the *Pastinaca sativa* is one of our commonest plants; cattle will devour any part of the plant greedily, and I have myself often eaten the roots (though by no means partial to the flavour). Again, I think (but am not positive) that the *Pastinaca sativa* might not grow on the Yorkshire moors, as it generally abounds in a chalky or limestone soil. With regard to the narrow-leaved water-parsnip (*Sium angustifolium*), Dr. Withering says that the roots are noxious to cattle; and one of the authors of the "Hortus Medicus" says of the less common species (*Sium latifolium*), that the leaves have proved injurious to animals, and that the plant eaten as cresses has proved nearly fatal; while the foliage of the more common and slender kind (*Sium angustifolium*) is, he says, more active, and has in many cases proved fatal when eaten by mistake for watercresses. *Helosciadium nodiflorum* (formerly *Sium nodiflorum*) is a harmless plant, and probably that gathered by village doctresses; the juice is recommended by Dr. Withering in cutaneous diseases; three table-spoonfuls twice a-day, in milk. The wild celery (*Apium gravedens*), illustrated in Miss Pratt's little work mentioned above, is stated to be an acrid and noxious plant, though the origin of our garden celery, and I believe the only species indigenous to Great Britain.—H. REEKS (Thruxton).

THE FARM.

ARABLE FARM.—In consequence of the dry state of the weather, spring corn sowing has been conducted under very favourable circumstances. Fallows of all descriptions work to advantage. The wheat plant is by no means uniformly strong and healthy. We find it, in soils scarcely ever known to have failed, beginning only to show signs of tillering, and this process in too many cases is progressing slowly and in patches. Top-dressings of guano, nitrate of soda, and sulphate of ammonia may be applied in many cases with good effect. The operation of harrowing will also prove beneficial towards increasing vegetation. The working of turnip land may be successfully accomplished in such weather as we have lately enjoyed. Every opportunity should now be seized for the purpose of preparing the land for mangold wurzel, and a portion for kohl-rabi. We have drawn attention to preparations for the former crop only a few weeks ago, under the head of "Farm," on the ground of usefulness as a spring feed. We would again remind our agricultural friends of the importance of preparing, in the present suitable weather, fair breadths for the cultivation of this root. The attention of the farmer has been of late years drawn to the Hungarian turnip, or kohl-rabi, as possessing many properties likely to meet the growing deficiencies of our Swede and common turnip crops. Before we proceed to notice some of the particulars connected with its cultivation, we give the following account of its composition, as analysed by Dr. Anderson:

	Bulbs.		Leaves.
Water	86·74	.....	86·68
Albuminous compounds	2·75	.....	2·37
Respiratory principals	8·62	.....	8·29
Fibre	0·77	.....	1·21
Ash	1·12	.....	1·45
	100·00		100·00
Nitrogen	0·44	.....	0·38—

The same gentleman remarks that they are about twice as valuable as ordinary turnips, and materially surpass the best Swedes, which rarely contain more than 9 or 10 per cent. of solid matters, and 1·5 per cent. of albuminous compounds.

The method of culture best suited for the production of this root may be said to be identical with that pursued for the raising of turnips. The preparation of the land, by means of ploughing, harrowing, and crushing, will contribute towards the success of the crop, as it does in the case of the Swede or common turnip. According to the experience of those who have more largely attended to its cultivation in the field, we learn that farm-yard manure, used with any of our phosphatic or ammoniacal manures, in the same proportions as applied to the turnip crop, will produce a profitable yield. The most recent information communicated to the agricultural public, on the field growth of kohl-rabi, is conveyed through the papers of Messrs Bennet and Lawson, in the *Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England*. The former applied ten loads of fold-yard manure with from 4 cwt. to 5 cwt. of superphosphate of lime, drilled in with the seed; the latter manured with 25 tons of farm-yard dung, with 6 cwt. of superphosphate, and 2 cwt. of common salt. Phospho-Peruvian guano has been used instead of the former, and found to answer. The quantity of seed to be used at the time of sowing will vary according to the manner of cultivation; if treated like cabbages and sown in a seed-bed, eight ounces of seed on an area of six square yards will produce sufficient plants for an acre. If sown the same as turnips, when the manure is drilled in, 2lbs. per acre will be sufficient. There are two kinds of seed, the purple and the green, the one assuming the shape of the pear and the other the apple. Three crops of this root have been taken in the year by one

THE NATURALIST.

[Communications of any kind intended for THE FIELD must be addressed to "THE EDITOR," at 346, Strand, and not to the name or private address of any person who may be known in connection with the paper. This rule must be strictly attended to in future—its non-observance in some cases hitherto, will account for delays and inattention.]

ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY.

SIR,—I have just received on behalf of the society a small hamper containing two nests, of ten and twelve eggs respectively, of the ruffed, grouse of Canada, most kindly sent by Capt. Hardy, Royal Artillery now at Halifax, Nova Scotia. This gentleman writes to me: "I have packed each carefully in dry moss, and sent them by a trusty messenger. Although I have had so many seekers for grouse eggs, I have had none besides those I send you, and they were both taken on the same day by my Indian hunter, John Williams, about forty miles from Halifax. He watched the nest, and waiting till the number of eggs deposited were about the usual complement, took them both at the same time, and carefully brought them to me. I can affirm they have not yet been sat upon. I shall be able, I trust, to send you young birds, as I can rear them here. There is a pair of Canada partridges (*Tetrao Canadensis*) now breeding in confinement near this. I might have sent some of their eggs, but I think it a pity to disturb them in bringing up a healthy progeny accustomed to civilised life *ab initio*, so will wait and send the young birds when I think they will be strong enough." Capt. Hardy's letter is dated May 29. There is, however, I trust a chance of their being hatched. They have been immediately placed out under the auspices of members of the society. The hearty thanks of the society are due to Capt. Hardy for the great trouble he has taken in procuring and sending these eggs. We trust other gentlemen who have the opportunity will follow his example, and forward animals and birds (or birds' eggs) for experiment. F. T. BUCKLAND (2nd Life Guards).

NOTES AND QUESTIONS ON NATURAL HISTORY.

THE CUCKOO.—The common people have the idea that the cuckoo *stutters* before coming rain. I confess, since my attention has been called to it, to hearing something very like it, and the bird appears to have difficulty in getting his note out, and rather says "Cuck-ruck-uck-coo; cuck-ra-coo; cuck-oo." What say your observers?—H. A. C.

EGGS OF THE KESTREL.—I would just mention that I have this season obtained a nest of five kestrel's eggs, four coloured as usual, the fifth rather larger than the others and pure white. I had them from a person I know well, who took them himself, and there is not the least grounds to suppose that he would deceive me. I never met with such a case before, and should like to know if it is recognised as a thing that sometimes happens.—A. C.

A CAT SUCKLING LEVERETS.—A curious incident occurred at the Glen of Imal, in the county of Wicklow, last week. A hare was accidentally coursed and killed by a greyhound; on being taken from the dog poor puss was found to be with young, and on opening her three live leverets were taken from her. Fortunately a cat had just kittened in the house close by where the hare was killed. The young leverets were put to her in place of her own offspring, and they at once took to her and she to them, and the hares are thriving just as well as if sucking their own mother.—C W. W.

MARINE PLANTS.—I have received the following from M. Cloez, Professeur, of the Jardin des Plantes:—"Mon cher Monsieur,—Les botanistes donnent le nom d'Hydrophytes ou Phycées ou Alguer à une classe nombreuse de plantes qui vivent au sein des eaux douces et salées. Les varechs croissaus sur les rochers marines appartiennent à cette famille, ce sont ces plantes qui les cultivateurs du littoral recoltent à certaines epoques sous le nom de *Goemon*. et qu'ils laissent pourrir pour en obtenir un engrais très actif."—H. G. (Paris.)

TAMENESS OF THE WOOD-PIGEON.—I have seen an instance of tameness in a wood-pigeon similar to that which E. S. T. describes. I was driving in a dog-cart through a park, between some high trees and fern, when I saw a wood-pigeon sitting in the road in front of me. It scarcely moved as I approached, and only just stepped clear of the wheel. I touched it gently with the whip, but it would not fly. Being in a hurry I did not get down to catch it, which I am confident I might have done. The bird appeared in good health, for its feathers were smooth, and its eye bright.—M. I. D.

WHITE AND PARTI-COLOURED RATS.—Seeing an account in your last week's paper respecting black rats, I send you the following. As some men in the employ of Mr Gibbs, of Church Cench, Worcestershire, were engaged in removing a wheat-rick, they caught and killed a fawn and white rat, together with two pure white ones alive. I have the fawn and white to preserve. The white ones are in the possession of Mr Gibbs. Can any of your numerous readers inform me of the cause? The rats are quite wild.—C. JONES, Taxidermist (Bengworth, Evesham, Worcestershire).—[White and parti-coloured rats are not common, but several have occurred within the range of our own experience. To assign a cause for any departure from the asual colouring in wild animals, is rather beyond our Editorial skill.—ED.]

PRESERVATION OF BIRDS' NESTS.—I should be glad if some of your numerous correspondents, who are no doubt competent to do so, would inform me how far nests of birds require any steps to be taken with a view to their preservation, and what are the best to adopt with the various kinds of material employed? I imagine many might keep long uninjured, such as those made of dry grasses, &c., but I fear many will be attacked by small *acari;* while those where wool, feathers, &c., are employed, are likely to become moth-eaten. Then, again, the downy structures made by some of the ducks, may, I fear, similarly suffer. Information on this point will, I doubt not, be acceptable to many of your readers, and among them to —A. C.—[The use of camphor or benzole will keep out all living animals.—ED.]

THE GELINOTTE.—Can any of your correspondents favour me with an account of the gelinotte—a game bird found in France and elsewhere in Europe? Not knowing its scientific name, I have not been able to find a description of it in any book on ornithology.—INQUIRER.—[The gelinotte (*Tetrao bonasia*) is of common occurrence in France and Germany on hills covered with fir, larch, birch, or hazel; it feeds on the berries of several shrubs, makes its nest under shelter of the common brake, and lays as many as sixteen eggs, of a reddish ground colour, with darker spots. These particulars are chiefly from Temminck, Vol. ii. p. 464, where a full description of both male and female is given. We will translate these if our correspondent wishes.—ED.]

FOOD OF SEA BIRDS.—Mr Crichton seems surprised that the gulls, &c., in the Orkneys find sufficient daily food. Has he never looked into the sea there while the sun is shining, and the water perfectly calm, and observed that it is swarming with young coalfish, there called the "sillock," which forms their chief food, and is quite inexhaustible? I have seen people fishing off the rocks in Caithness for sillocks with a hoop net, and catching great quantities at each haul. The sillock grows into the coalfish, and when at its largest size is called in Argyllshire a "stenlock," and is trawled for from a boat at night with a hook and line armed with gimp that looks strong enough to hold anything, and a whole herring is used as bait. I often wonder that so few people take to sea-fishing as an amusement: it is very exciting with a fish on from 5lb. to 8lb., or 12lb., I can assure you.—CHASSEUR.

SKYLARK FEIGNING TO BE WOUNDED.—We have frequently seen in our rambles, when a partridge has been suddenly disturbed, how adroitly she will drop her wings, utter a cry, and, feigning to be a wounded bird, endeavour to draw our attention from her helpless young to herself, in order to shield them. I once saw the pretty skylark do the same thing. Having surprised her when sitting upon a nest in the grass, upon three eggs, she started up alarmed, dropped her wing, uttered a plaintive note, and tumbled along the ground, as if almost unable to rise upon the wing. I knew the stratagem too well to be deceived, so instead of following the bird to pick it up, I remained motionless, and watched her proceedings, and admired the affection and ingenuity which dictated to her the pursuit of such a course. —JOHN JOSEPH BRIGGS.

BLACKBIRD APPROPRIATING THE NEST OF THE MISSEL-THRUSH.—So much difference of opinion still exists as to the construction of the missel-thrush's nest, that I went yesterday to examine whether there was any clay or mud in the one I lately found in a spruce fir-tree, the particulars of which were stated in your paper at the time. Upon raising my hand to pull down this nest, to my astonishment a hen blackbird flew out of it. The poor thing had been sitting upon four young ones, recently hatched. Had it been the first time of this discovery, very probably I should have written to THE FIELD to state that blackbirds occasionally use a quantity of wool round about their nests. How very naturally, therefore, ornithologists may fall into error. Mr Bewick says "that the nest of the bullfinch is composed chiefly of moss," not a particle of which I ever could discover in one yet. They are invariably composed of small sticks and roots, with a thin lining of horsehair.—A GOOD OBSERVER (Roscrea, June 8).

THE BLACK RAT.—It is generally supposed that this rat is very scarce, and, indeed, almost extinct in London, being confined to a few very old and *favoured* localities. It is not so, however, in reality, as Mr Buckland will be able to procure any number of them at the Custom-house. In some of the warehouses there they abound so as to be a perfect nuisance, and more particularly in the spice stores. I remember seeing one in a cage in one of the cinnamon warehouses some two years since which had been just caught, and several gentlemen connected with THE FIELD were present. One of the men promised to obtain and forward us some specimens; but although he took a *quid pro quo* for the promised specimens, he never sent them.—FRANCIS FRANCIS.

— With reference to the old black rat, I may state that I have not unfrequently heard from sailors that they are to be found in certain ships. I am sorry that I should only be able to give one instance which has come under my own observation. The Hon. Mr Ellis caught one in the Ariadne while he was returning in that ship from America with the expedition of the Prince of Wales last autumn.—M. I. D.

DUN HORSES.—I hope that you will permit me to return my sincere thanks to "Eques," of Argyllshire, for his information. I have talked to many persons, but have never found any one who knew nearly so much about the inheritance of colours in horses. "Eques" asks me to define what is meant by dun—I wish I could. It seems that almost any colour that is not bay, chesnut, black, grey, or one of the roans, is sometimes called dun. Even in mouse-duns I have seen two very distinct tints. The commonest colour which, in my limited experience, I have heard called dun, is a bay or chesnut, more or less diluted with cream or clay tint. In India, the Kattywar breed, which is more striped than any other breed, is called dun; but, as I am informed by Col. Poole, the colour is generally between brown and black. I now see that I should have put my question thus—Are horses, of any of the many indefinite tints commonly called duns, with a stripe along the spine, or with stripes across the legs, ever produced from parents neither of which are striped? for the first appearance or origin of the stripes is chiefly interesting for my purpose. I put the case—Are duns ever produced from parents neither of which are duns, because horses thus coloured are so frequently striped? and I thought I should more easily find out the parentage merely of the dun colour. What "Eques" says about the dirty mark on the withers, representing a single or double stripe, is exactly what I have observed. If "Eques" could find out, without much trouble, the colour of the dam and sire of his dun mare with the list and stripes, which was bred in Argyllshire, I should be very glad to hear it; but I have already caused "Eques" very much trouble, and I beg permission again to thank him.—CHARLES DARWIN (Down, Bromley, Kent).

MEMORY AND AFFECTION OF A PARROT.—A few years ago Capt. B. brought us a beautiful little parrot from Madras; it soon became a great favourite, and is very affectionate and gentle with the ladies, but has a violent antipathy to all men, and bites them if they come within its reach. The Captain returned home last winter, and went to pet his old parrot, and was surprised at being savagely attacked by it. Thinking it had forgotten him, he sat down and whistled a tune he had taught it at sea. The poor bird suddenly seemed to remember him—expressed its surprise and distress by quaving and fluttering. As soon as he ceased whistling it flew to his hand, and then to his face, and kissed him with every demonstration of affection and joy. This reminds me of an anecdote told me by the late Sir C. S. He had occasion to go abroad for some years, and left behind a favourite bull-terrier to guard his house, but taking away a skin rug the dog usually slept upon in the library. When Sir C. returned, the dog came shyly up, as if he had some slight acquaintance with him, but afterwards followed him into the library; when he found the skin laid in its old place, he at once rolled upon it. This appeared to recal to his recollection his old master, upon whom he jumped with delight, as if anxious to make up by his wild caresses for his forgetfulness.—W. B.

WHITE WEASEL.—A deal of writing in THE FIELD has taken place lately respecting the white and pied stoat and weasel. I beg to inform you that I have in my possession a white weasel, killed near here. I have it under a glass shade, or I would at once send it to you for inspection; the shade is likely to be broken by rails. I have no doubt but I shall be in London in a short time, and will bring it with me, if you think that will settle the question. I have preserved game, and shot for more than twenty years, and have seen, I may say, some hundreds of stoats and weasels in my time; but never saw a white weasel, or heard of one, in this part.—JOHN HARDY (Colwich, Nottingham).—[We do not wish our correspondent to take the trouble to send or bring his specimen; but are obliged for his kind offer.—ED.]

— I observe that a discussion is going on in your columns about white stoats and weasels. Every schoolboy knows that stoats are often found both white and pied. I have myself seen several. Till last Saturday, however, I should have coincided with your correspondent "High Elms" in asserting that I had never seen or heard of a white or pied weasel. On that morning I was walking along the banks of a reedy pond in the park at Margam, in Glamorganshire, when some animal I did not know sprung up out of a ditch under my feet, and ran for about fifteen yards across the grass; then it stopped, and sat up in the pert attitude weasels often affect. I stood perfectly still and watched it. It was a weasel perfectly skewbald. The markings were extremely regular: the head, as far as I can recollect, was white; the fore legs were brown, but the back and flanks were white. The hind legs I only saw when the animal was running, as of course they were hid in the grass when it sat up and looked at me. I watched it for two or three minutes, when it ran into the rushes. Unfortunately I had no gun with me, but I have asked the keeper to try and catch it; and if he does so, I will send you a more accurate description of it.—M. I. D.

ANSWERS.

DISPARITY IN SIZE OF EGGS.—In answer to S. Stone, or "Curiosity," I may observe that, although I have not noticed a difference in the size of wagtails' eggs from the same nest, I have taken the hedge accentor with one out of four eggs little more than half the size of the largest; and, further, no two of them matched in size. The nest was taken late in the season, so probably it might have been a second, or even third laying. The small egg resembled in shape a woodpigeon's, while the others were of the ordinary character.—ST. FAITH.

ANIMALS EATING POISONOUS PLANTS.—I believe that there are a very considerable number of British plants containing poisonous alkaloids which are eaten by various animals with impunity, and I will state a few of the number: The bitter-sweet (*Solanum Dulcamara*) contains an alkaloid called "solania," and although we are told that the berries of this plant are fatal in their effects when eaten by children, "Duval" states that he gave a hundred of them to a dog without their producing any evil. *Colchicum*, or meadow saffron, exudes a milky juice containing a peculiar alkaloid called "veratrine;" the deleterious effects of this on the human frame are well known, yet some writers assert that horses eat the plant with impunity. The darnel is also known to contain poisonous properties, though I do not know whether they have ever been investigated by chemists; yet pigs eat the seeds readily, and chickens are fattened on them; Linnæus informs us that sheep will likewise feed on them. I read the other day that the term "Lolard," applied by their enemies to the followers of Wickliffe, originated from *Lolium*, the latin name for this grass, signifying that as this word was derived from the Greek words "to ruin the corn," they were the tares mentioned in the Gospel as destroying the wheat. But to return to our subject: the hemlock, which is poisonous and contains a volatile oil of an alkaloid nature, is eaten, according to Lucretius, by asses, sheep, and goats, whilst various birds—thrushes in particular—are very fond of the fruit. Henbane, again, is eaten by goats, sheep, and pigs. Renard states that horse-dealers mix the seeds of this plant with oats in order to fatten their horses, and there are two insects, one a species of beetle the other a kind of bug, which feed upon it. The spurge laurel is another instance of the fact that plants injurious to man are harmless in their effects on animals, for the berries of this plant are the favourite food of pheasants; and the berries of the mezereon are eaten by various birds, especially by some of the finch tribe. Some physician, I forget whom, says that as the structure of the stomach of the animal in question resembles that of a man's, so will the plants poisonous to the human being prove hurtful to the animal likewise. There are very many other plants which could be named, but my letter will occupy too much of your valuable space if I at present continue the subject. —FIREFLY.

— Mr Nicholson, of St. Mary's Hospital, will find in an old volume of the "Transactions of the Asiatic Society," an account of the toucan or buceros feeding on the nux vomica. The account seemed to me well attested, and I was astonished at any animal feeding on so deadly a poison. I am sorry that I cannot give a more precise reference. We need not feel surprise at very distinct kinds of animals being affected by different poisons, when we hear, on the authority of so eminent a naturalist as Professor Wyman, that some varieties of the pig are differently affected by the same plant. Mr Darwin, in the last edition of his "Origin of Species," says that Professor Wyman, "on asking the farmers in Florida how it was that all their pigs were black, informed him that the pigs ate the paint-root (*Lachnanthes*), which coloured their bones pink, and which caused the hoof of all but the black varieties to drop off; and one of the squatters added, "we select the black members of a litter for raising, as they alone have a good chance of living." I hope Mr Nicholson will tell the readers of THE FIELD a little more about the different action of poisons on different animals.—Q.

— In answer to Mr Edward Nicholson, I beg to say he has broached a very interesting subject, and one on which, as far as my experience will permit, I shall be most happy to give him every information. The *Solanum Dulcamara* is the only common nightshade in this neighbourhood: sheep, and probably goats, eat the leaves and tender branches of this species; blackbirds, thrushes (*Turdus musicus*), and many smaller birds, eat the berries. *Hyoscyamus niger* is eaten in a withered state by sheep and pigs; and Dr Withering says two insects, *Chrysomela Hyoscyami* and *Cimex Hyoscyami*, are found on it. The withered leaves and berries of the potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) are eaten by pigs and probably other animals. Small birds devour the seed of the *Datura Stramonium;* and it really seems a wonderful provision of Nature that birds can eat the seeds of nearly, if not all, our poisonous plants. I once observed the root of the *Œnanthe crocata*, which had been partly devoured either by a bird or water-rat, though probably the latter. Of the Umbelliferæ, sheep will eat the foliage of the water-parsnips, the fool's parsley (*Æthusa Cynapium*), and probably the *Conium maculatum;* but of this I cannot state positively. I know of no animals except geese that eat the the *Ranunculace* with impunity. The pheasant's-eye (*Adonis autumnalis*), which abounds in cultivated grounds in some parts of Hampshire, is very deleterious to lambs, and is generally eradicated on that account. Goats are particularly partial to our British Coniferæ, and certainly eat the foliage of the *Taxus baccata* in a green state; sheep and horses are poisoned by doing so. Of this I am certain, from well-authenticated accounts. Sheep, if driven, for want of more nutritious herbage, to eat the *Anthemis Cotula*, suffer greatly from blistered mouths. For the larvæ of our British Lepidoptera feeding on poisonous plants, see "Stainton."—H. REEKS (Thruxton).

BLACKBIRD'S NEST IN A TAPROOM.—There is now at Mr Smart's, landlord of the Norfolk Lodge, Hayling Island, near Havant, Hants, a tame blackbird that built a perfect nest in an old hat in the taproom, laid four eggs, which were removed, and the like number of thrush's eggs put in. They hatched, but only lived a few days, for want of proper food, or were killed by the tobacco smoke. The bird repaired the nest, laid four eggs, and is now sitting on four blackbird eggs, that were put in after removing the others. The bird is quite at liberty, but seldom goes far from the house. The room is always occupied by six men lodgers, and many others frequenting the room.

PRODUCTIVENESS OF FOWLS.—Experiments to ascertain the comparative productiveness of the different breeds of poultry have been made this spring in the Zoological Gardens of the Bois de Boulogne. The number of eggs laid by the fowls in that establishment has been immense, and the sale of them produced in April the sum of 3033f. It appears that the Asiatic breeds of Nankin and Brahmapootra are the best layers; the French crèveccurs come next; the Houdains third; the La Flèche fourth; and after them the Dorkings and a Dutch breed. The Naukins and Brahmapootras are also remarkably precocious, and, according to some breeders, they begin laying in February, and keep on almost to the end of the year.—*Daily Paper.*

PASTIMES.

ARCHERY.

ARCHERY MEETINGS FIXED.

Wednesday, June 19.—West Somerset Archers. First Grand Day.
Thursday, June 20.—Archers of the Teme (Ludlow).
Thursday, June 20.—Dawlish Archery Society. First Prize Meeting.
Thursday, June 20—Royal Toxophilite Society. Grand Subscription Handicap.
Friday, June 21.—Edgbaston Archery Society. Ordinary Meeting.
Tuesday, June 25.—Royal Toxophilite Society. Ladies' Prize Day.
Thursday, June 27.—Royal Toxophilite Society. Prize given by H. C. Mules, Esq.
Friday, June 28.—Lincolnshire Archers.
Tuesday, July 2.—Kimbolton Archers, Stoneley Hall.
Saturday, July 6.—Bath Archers. Target Meeting.
Tuesday, July 9.—Archers of the Teme (Ludlow).
Thursday, July 11.—Royal Toxophilite Society. Prize given by Sydney G. R. Strong, Esq.
Thursday, July 11.—Kilkenny Archers. First Prize Meeting.
Friday, July 12.—Edgbaston Archery Society. Prize Meeting.
Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, July 17, 18, and 19.—Grand National Archery Meeting, on Aintree Racecourse, near Liverpool.
Thursday, July 25.—Royal Toxophilite Society. Challenge Cup, pr. by Capt. Norton.
Thursday, July 25.—Archers of th Teme (Ludlow).
Friday, Aug 2.—Edgbaston Archery Society. Ordinary Meeting.
Tuesday, Aug. 6.—Archers of the Teme (Ludlow).
Tuesday, Aug. 6.—Kimbolton Archers, Stoneley Hall. Prize Day.
Thursday and Friday. Aug. 7 and 8.—Grand Western Archery Meeting.
Friday, Aug 16.—Edgbaston Archery Society. Ordinary Meeting.
Monday, Aug. 19.—Archers of the Teme (Ludlow).
Friday, Aug. 30.—Edgbaston Archery Society. Prize Meeting.
Tuesday, Sept. 3.—Kimbolton Archers, Stoneley Hall. Prize Day.
Friday, Sept. 13.—Edgbaston Archery Society. Ordinary Meeting.

THE LEAMINGTON AND MIDLAND COUNTIES ANNUAL GRAND ARCHERY MEETING.

THE annual grand archery meeting, held every year since the summer of 1851 in Leamington, commenced on Wednesday last, and was attended by most of the expert archers of the United Kingdom. It was scarcely possible for those who took part in the competition to be surrounded with circumstances more favourable to the amusement. The weather—which for days had been lowering, showery and windy—became for the occasion brilliant and calm. The slight rain which did fall at lengthened intervals was so insignificant a downfall as to be rather welcomed than otherwise. The beautiful trees of the Jephson Gardens, which surrounded the inner inclosure, were in the fulness of their foliage, and lent a pleasant shade to those who felt the inconvenience of the heat of the sun. The wind, too, which last year was so boisterous as to blow down several of the targets, was at rest, and gently rustled the branches, but in no way deviated the arrow from its intended course. The "archery interest" sent their representatives to compete for the offered prizes. Most of the principal counties in England sent their knights and their peeresses of the bow. The target list, which is given below, will show that there was no falling off in the county representation. Many of these were clothed in their distinctive uniforms, the "Lincoln green" appropriately predominating. One of the most pleasing features of an archery meeting is that it enables the gentler sex to take a part in the amusement, and to essay the possession of the proffered guerdons. It is, indeed, one of those very few diversions in which the ladies may take part in the open air, without, in the slightest degree, detracting from their native modesty and innate refinement. Whilst engaged in this active exercise, the fair archer loses none of the winning softness of her sex. For the use of the quiver and the bow she has classic authority on her side. Diana has her quiver upon her shoulder, and the bow in her hand; and Virgil tells us that Queen Dido wore a golden quiver when attired for the hunt. The pleasure and excitement is not monopolised by the archers; the fashionable assemblage of spectators who promenade the gardens have their interest in the sport, and on Wednesday this assembly was more than equal to former years. It included the principal families of the county and the town, and a goodly array of visitors, who were temporarily sojourning in the fashionable town of Leamington in order to be present at the meeting. The Volunteer Rifle band—a novel acquisition since last year—played in a very creditable manner during the day, from a new and handsome orchestra recently erected by the Jephson Garden Committee. The shooting commenced on Wednesday morning at eleven o'clock, by the gentlemen, at the distance of one hundred yards. This continued until about half-past one, at which hour an excellent luncheon was provided by Mr Oldham. The ladies at half-past two put in a graceful appearance, and were speedily surrounded by a number of anxious eyes to witness their shooting at 60 yards against the gentlemen's 80 yards. This having been accomplished, the smaller distances of 50 yards and 60 yards were shot over. The best totals of the day amongt the ladies were the following, as given by the judge, C. M. Caldecott, Esq.:—Mrs Horniblow, gross score, 336; nett, 289. Mrs E. Lister, gross score, 306; nett, 256. Miss Merridew, nett, 245. Mrs Litchfield, gross score, 255; nett, 241. The following was the award for the gentlemen:—Mr Golightly, 438. Mr H. A. Ford, gross, 513; nett, 424.

The following is the target list:—

LADIES.

TARGET A.—Miss Dixon, Warwickshire; Mrs Walters, Lichfield Archers; Mrs E. Lister, Cheshire Bowmen; Mrs Horniblow, Warwickshire; Mrs Rogers, Herefordshire Bowmen; Miss Merridew, Warwickshire; Miss H. Chetwynd, Lichfield Archers.

TARGET B.—Miss R. C. K. Fenton, Lichfield Archers; Miss Wilkinson, Neville's Cross Archers; Mrs Miller, Edge Hill Archery Society; Miss C. Fenton, Ivanhoe Archers; Mrs Litchfield, Edge Hill Archery Society; Mrs Waldy, Durham.

TARGET C.—Miss Lowther, South Herts Archery Society; Miss M. Davis, South Herts Archery Society; Miss Lee, Warwickshire; Miss Stewart, Warwickshire; Miss C. Hill, Warwickshire; Miss Jessy Stewart, Warwickshire; Miss Bennett, Northamptonshire.

TARGET D.—Lady Edwardes, Royal British Bowmen: Miss Royds, Lancaster Bowmen; Mrs Pollock, Middlesex; Miss Cole, Warwickshire; Miss Eyton, Warwickshire; Miss Cumberland, Warwickshire.

TARGET E.—Miss C. Howe, Warwickshire; Miss Williams, Enfield Archers; Miss L. Fenton, Bath Archery Society; Miss Howe, Warwickshire; Miss Attfield, Bath Archery Society; Miss Flight, Norwood.

GENTLEMEN.

TARGET 1.—Mr H. C. Mules, Royal Toxophilite; Mr W. Wetherell, Edge-hill and Deddington; Major Martin, Royal British Bowmen; Mr Golightly, Edge-hill Archers; Mr W. F. Pollock, Royal Toxophilite Society; Mr N. Wetherell, Royal Toxophilite Society; Mr Coker.

TARGET 2.—Mr. W. J. W. Baynes, Royal Toxophilite and Log-hut Archers; Mr H. A. Ford, Cheltenham Archers; Mr H. Walters, Lichfield Archers; Mr J. Rogers, Herefordshire Bowmen; Mr C. Garnett, Royal Toxophilite Society; Mr. Hanbury, Herefordshire Archers; Mr M. Guire, Warwickshire.

TARGET 3.—Mr. W. Ford, John o'Gaunt Bowmen; Mr G. Mallory, Cheshire Bowmen; Mr R. B Hare, West Somerset Archers; Mr J. Guest, Royal Toxophilite Society; Mr G. L. Aston, Edgbaston Archers; Mr A. R. Tawney, Royal Toxophilite and Edge-hill Archers; Mr W. S. Miller, Edge-hill Archers.

TARGET 4.—Colonel Clowes, Worcestershire; Mr G. Edwards, Aston-park Archers, Mr O. Luard, Woodmen of Arden; Mr Knapp, Queen's, St Leonards; Mr Spedding, Queen's St Leonards; Mr Elliott, Aston-park Archers; Mr C. Croft, Bath and Vale of Mowbray Archers.

TARGET 5.—Mr Swire, Vale of Mowbray Archers; Mr G. M. Kettle, Royal Toxophilite Society; Mr T Coulson, Stalbridge and Bath Archers; Mr J. Howe, Royal Toxophilite Society; Mr Satterthwaite, Warwickshire; Mr E. Rogers Covey, Gloucestershire; Mr Turner, Cheltenham-hill Archers.

The following is the score of the shooting during the first day:

LADIES.

	60 yrds. Hits.	Scr.	50 yrds. Hits.	Scr.
TARGET A.				
Dixon. Miss	18	142	18	22
Walters, Mrs	25	93	18	22
Lister, Mrs E.	36	180	22	126
Horniblow, Mrs.	42	210	24	126
Rogers, Mrs	25	117	19	101
Merridew, Miss	32	154	21	91
TARGET B.				
Fenton, Miss R. C. K.	19	85	11	35
Fenton, Miss E.	21	75	10	34
Miller, Mrs	31	105	13	47
Fenton, Miss C.	33	129	16	52
Litchfield, Mrs.	43	179	20	76
Waldy, Mrs	4	18	5	21

Miss Wilkinson did not shoot.

	60 yrds. Hits.	Scr.	50 yrds. Hits.	Scr.
TARGET C.				
Wetherell, Miss E.	12	40	8	36
Stewart, Miss	20	82	20	96
Hill, Miss C.	23	97	6	34
Stewart, Miss Jessy.	20	62	12	42

Miss Pollock and Miss Bennett did not shoot.

TARGET D.				
Royds, Miss			31	6 20
Lee, Miss			20	72 15 49
Cole, Miss			14	38 10 38
Cumberland, Miss.			16	74 11 45
TARGET E.				
Howe, Miss C.			13	51 8 23
Williams, Miss			12	40 12 60
Fenton, Miss L.			26	92 16 50
Howe, Miss			16	72 7 35
Attfield, Miss			22	74 16 58
Flight, Miss			16	54 9 35

GENTLEMEN.

	100 yards.		80 yards.		60 yards.		Golds.	Gross.
TARGET No. 1.								
Mules, Mr H. C.	30	120	35	145	21	111	86	376
Wetherell, Mr W.	6	10	11	55	9	25	26	90
Golightly, Mr.	38	158	30	167	23	133	94	438
Pollock, Mr W. F.	8	30	9	41	11	45	28	116
Wetherell, Mr N.	6	14	20	68	9	39	33	121
Coker, Mr.	17	63	16	62	9	43	43	168

Mr Wyatt and Major Martin did not shoot.

TARGET No. 2.								
Baynes, Mr J. W.	15	53	24	94	17	71	86	280
Ford, Mr H. A.	48	176	39	201	24	136	111	513
Walters, Mr H.	24	70	29	111	22	96	73	277
Rogers, Mr J.	15	47	22	81	16	56	58	185
Garnett, Mr C.	22	99	25	99	21	101	68	290
Hanbury, Mr.	20	64	21	87	16	74	57	225
M'Guire, Mr.	12	28	22	83	18	64	53	174
TARGET No. 3.								
Ford, Mr W.	23	97	27	118	18	78	68	266
Mallory, Mr G.	29	111	23	106	21	111	72	322
Hare, Mr H. B.	31	109	28	108	20	104	79	321
Croft, Mr C.			17	65	18	70	35	135
Aston, Mr G. L.	16	54	15	49	17	59	48	162
Tawney, Mr A. R.	21	65	21	77	20	102	63	244
Miller, Mr W. S.	17	71	16	64	16	72	49	207

Mr Croft did not shoot at the 100 yards range.

TARGET No. 4.								
Clowes, Col.	23	99	17	55	14	63	54	216
Edwards, Mr G.	30	130	34	146	23	125	87	401
Luard, Mr O.	1	3	8	24	10	53	19	79
Knapp, Mr	43	175	31	137	16	80	90	392
Spedding, Mr	27	95	31	153	20	74	78	322
Merridew, Mr N.	8	29	16	56	13	61	37	149
Elliott, Mr.	18	64	25	101	18	83	61	247
TARGET No. 5.								
Swire, Mr.	22	76	35	135	16	78	73	289
Kettle, Mr G. M.	15	57	20	88	11	61	46	206
Coulson, Mr T.	24	90	26	104	21	93	71	287
Howe, Mr J.	12	46	19	65	9	34	40	145
Satterthwaite, Mr.	11	41	17	79	13	40	40	160
Corve, Mr E. Rogers	9	38	11	53	10	44	30	136
Turner, Mr	33	87	25	101	20	88	68	276

Mr F. Townsend did not shoot.