

the last moment, evade the most vigilant enquiries of his anxious friends !'

There were plenty of accidents and injuries. 'As Mr. Bulkley approached on a shy young horse the boar charged, and evading the spear planted his tusks deep and wide in the calf of the rider's leg, fortunately without unseating him.' The narrative of the 1859 Christmas Meet occupies twelve pages of the journal. At the close is entered by W. H. P. (Propert) '(N.B. The above talented journalist has this moment left for Kurrachee.)' The gallant fight put up by one of the boars is well told. After describing the finding of the boar and the damages he inflicted on several of the horses, 'It would be tedious to relate the many charges that were made and received, and the spears that were broken by this gallant boar before he received his quietus. Bleeding from a dozen wounds and bristling with broken spears he still shewed an undaunted front; and when he died at last it was in sullen silence and not a squeak betrayed that his last moment was come.'

The sport related by G. E. Hancock in a letter (28-2-67) to the Honorary Secretary deserves further record. After describing some blank days and the losing of several boars he wrote, 'At last I was closing on him in a thick cotton field when the horse's legs caught in the cotton and castor-oil stalks and down he came. I flew over his head *taking the saddle with me*, for the girths broke. I was up again in time to see the boar turn down a lane to the left, jumped on my bewildered horse and rode him bare-backed down the lane as hard as he could pelt. The lane luckily led into the open where I saw the old boar making the most of his time for the next cover. Settling myself *well down to my horse's back-bone* I urged him across the open, and just as the boar plunged into another thick cotton field, I collared him. He turned on me so sharp and unexpectedly that, as you, reader, would have done nine times out of ten in such circumstances—I missed him! and, Oh Misery! driving my spear into the ground, split the shaft half way up. Grasping it together, as a drowning man may grasp a straw, I rushed at him again—and this time, prepared for anything. As I came up, he, as I expected, charged desperately—down went my spear between his shoulder blades where neck and body join—First Spear and Last Spear for it rolled him over dead—and thus I broke my luck.'

In the Tabular Statement of the Hunt for the year 1864 it is seen that five 'first spears' were taken by Auchinleck. At the foot of the Summary is recorded,

'The Hunt met 20 times, and killed 27 Boar. *Vivat Regina*'

BANGALORE,  
April 5, 1953.

R. W. BURTON  
Lt.-Col. I.A. (Retd.).

## II. ERADICATING BATS FROM BUNGALOWS

I was interested to read Mr. R. M. Aldworth's note in Vol. 51 (2) under the caption 'A Novel Method of eradicating Hornets'. By strange coincidence, the same method is adopted in Mandla (Madhya Pradesh), but for a different house pest. In this case the pests were

not hornets or bees but they were the small insect-eating bats. In 1924, the D.F.O. North Mandla's bungalow was infested with a large number of these bats. Apart from disturbed nights, the musty smell was over-powering, and in the morning the building floor was littered with their droppings. Realizing my trouble, a Gond orderly cut and collected the thorny branches of wild 'Ber' (*Zizyphus*) bushes. This plant has recurved spines, closely grown all over the branches, and the orderly fixed them up without using any twine or ropes under the roof, at all likely entrances or exits. After sunset these bats tried to get out of their roosting places and there was regular screeching for a long time from each and every bat. As we know, bats' wings are made of membranous skin with a network of nerves, and the recurved spines inflicted very painful wounds. Bats left the bungalow completely from that day.

I think, this experiment is worth trying on fruit bats (flying foxes). Messrs. I.C.I. (India) Ltd., have advised Mr. E. P. Gee to use 10 lbs. of Opencast Gelignite with a No. 6 Detonator. No cost is given for one charge of this explosive. On the other hand, one man can collect enough thorny branches to cover the crown of a fruit-bearing tree. Owing to the recurved nature of 'Ber' thorns one has only to hurl these branches at random on to the crown of the tree without tying them up. In South American orchards they cover each tree with a net during fruiting season. In this method of protecting fruits, they found that the bats learned to creep up the tree over the stem bypassing the net.

But in my opinion if thorns are used instead of expensive nets or dangerous explosives, the problem of getting rid of flying foxes can be effectively solved.

SECUNDERABAD,

June 14, 1953.

S. R. DAVER

## 12. WHY DO DEER AND OTHER MAMMALS LICK EARTH

R. A. McCullough, Research Associate in the University of New Hampshire writes—

'We are trying to ascertain why deer frequent non-saline brackish licks in New Hampshire. We have arrived at the conclusion that it is not due to inorganic matter through the use of the spectograph. We are now doing organic analysis.

There is some evidence accumulating here that there is a sex selective factor in the use of these licks—namely, that the females make much heavier use of them than do males. Have you observed this in India?

I have only been able to find two references to the effect that non-ruminant animals have been observed at these licks—one observation each of a bear and a porcupine. Do non-ruminant mammals or birds frequent your licks?'

Elephants and tiger are recorded in previous journals eating the earth of 'salt' licks as an aperient. (R. C. Morris, xxxviii: 385;



Daver, S R. 1953. "Eradicating Bats from Bungalows." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 51, 734–735.

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