

than 4000 feet above the sea. Then the *pinus abies*, or Scotch fir, appears and occupies a zone of 1000 feet. This is succeeded by the moss pine, which diminishes in size as the elevation increases, and at the height of 6000 feet appears only as a small shrub and in scattered patches. The open places of this region produce a few bluebells and other small flowers. From the termination of the moss pine to the summit the mountains have a barren and dreary look, their conical peaks being of naked rocks, or covered only with small lichens; yet even at these heights a straggling bluebell or gentian may sometimes be found. None of the Carpathians are covered with perpetual snow. Small mountain lakes of great depth, called the "eyes of the sea," are met with in various parts.



CHAMOIS.

Numerous passes intersecting these mountains facilitate communication between the countries lying at their base. All these passes were formerly strongly fortified, to prevent the entrance of the Turks into Transylvania, but several of them have nevertheless at various times been forced.

In the Eastern Carpathians the beech is the commonest forest-tree, forming as it does entire virgin forests. In the hilly country on the southern border of the mountains, and in the subjacent plain, extensive forests of oak formerly existed, but unfortunately they have been for the most part destroyed. There are whole