

beast not a hundred yards away. Sandy became more and more positive it was the white stag, so there was nothing left to do but take down the rifle and admire his fine points until he should rise and we could make sure of his identity. Eventually he got up and displayed a pair of lightish roan-colored haunches; the rest of his body appeared perfectly normal in color and I do not believe he had been rolling in the peat, though so late in the season it was very probable. Sandy said at once that he was the white stag sure enough; he was a good beast; we put him at 17st, the rifle back in its cover, and crawled quietly out the way we had come. The day was not a blank, though it promised to be so. We had a very long stalk in the afternoon, and I finally shot a fairish stag just after six in the evening, very late for Oct. 7, so far north. I recollect the fire belched from my rifle at the shot.

On my arrival at the lodge, burning with conscious pride at my self-restraint, I found it had been decided to shoot the white stag that season, and I was upbraided for my folly instead of being the hero of the evening. Such incidents make cynics of the young.

About a year later I was unexpectedly confronted one evening in the smoking room of a country house with a picture

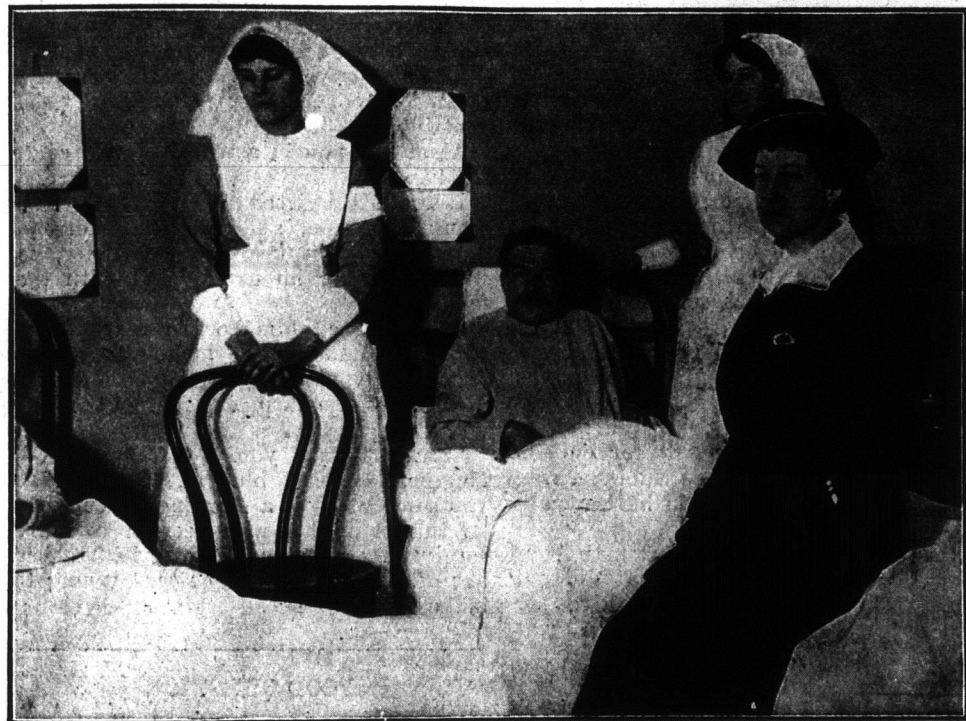
Snake Notes

By S. J. Wigley, Edgerton.

Could we but overcome our natural dislike to snakes we should find much in the study of these reptiles to interest and amuse us; but a club is generally our first requisition when we start to investigate snakes and as often as not a useful farmer's friend meets an untimely end.

Once a year snakes shed their skins in order to allow for growth. Previous to doing this the reptile becomes sluggish in movements and partly blind owing to the outer scale over the eyes becoming loose. The skin bursts at the neck and the animal works its head through the opening and with the aid of rough grass divests itself of its old coat. This operation is performed in early summer and the cast off skins may be often found in haying time. All snakes swallow their food whole—those with a poison gland kill their prey first; those without either crush their victim or swallow it alive. Among those that kill their prey by constriction are the Pythons and Boas which though not poisonous are dangerous because of their huge size.

Many snakes reproduce their young by laying soft-shelled eggs that are left



Russian Grand Duchess and Danish Princess Help in English Hospital for Wounded.

The royal families of the warring nations and even of neutral countries have been highly active in various phases of the war. The members of the gentler sex have invariably devoted themselves to hospital relief work. This picture taken at Harrogate, an English health resort, shows Princess Margaret of Denmark (on left) and the Grand Duchess George of Russia (sitting), sitting with wounded soldiers at one of the hospitals organized at Harrogate by the Grand Duchess, and personally supervised by herself. The men are very proud to have their wounds dressed by the Danish Princess. (Underwood Photo).

entitled "The White Stag of Glencoe" in an illustrated paper. This time he was on the back of a pony, and I observed that his light-colored haunches were turned to the camera, and that the rest of his body, which looked quite normal, was suspiciously in the shade. His head looked fairly wide, but had few points. The letterpress stated that he was shot in Glen Brayne, he was always a stay-at-home beast, and that he had been found to be suffering from kidney disease. No allusion, as far as I remember, was made to his color except in the title of the photograph. An ignominious epitaph for such a famous beast.

It would be interesting to know whether stags, which are born white and remain so for many years, usually assume a more normal color in middle age. The tendency in most animals is in the opposite direction, and man is no exception to the general rule. There was a white stag on the marches of Ben Alder and Corrou, which had much the same appearance as the Glencoe stag as painted in 1893. There was probably an agreement between the respective owners of these two forests to spare him, at any rate for some seasons, and the tract of country at his disposal was so extensive that he stood every chance of coming to maturity. Let us hope that he escaped the disease which attacked his famous predecessor, and that his head may long be the envy of those fortunate enough to spy him.

to hatch in decomposed vegetation, warm sandbanks, and under stones. A large number of species produce their young alive, the eggs being contained in the oviduct until incubation is complete. Amongst this class may be mentioned the rattlesnakes and vipers.

Reptiles manifest no affection for and show no care for their young, although it has been stated that the English viper will swallow her young on the approach of danger. Rewards have been offered for conclusive evidence of this but have not yet been claimed.

A poisonous snake is readily distinguished by its poison teeth or fangs—two long needle shaped hollow teeth through which the poison flows when the blow is struck. The bone supporting the poison fangs is hinged, so that the fangs may be bent backwards when not in use.

These teeth are the only "sting" a snake possesses. Its beautiful forked tongue can do no harm beyond picking up small insects as food.

The non-poisonous snakes are without fangs. Their teeth consist of a file-like bone with the points all turning inward so that it is impossible for a struggling victim to escape or for the snake to disgorge anything it has once started to swallow. The neck and body extend to an unbelievable extent in order to allow for the passage of the food.

During the winter hibernation takes place in holes in the ground, amongst all Canadian snakes.



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