

THE FLIGHT OF THE MARABOU STORK

By F. J. JACKSON

In reference to the question of the attitude of the Marabou Stork during flight, raised in the last issue of the Journal, it may interest your readers to know that during a recent visit to Ankole I had an opportunity of observing a large number

HERON



MARABOU

Attitude of Heron and Marabou in flight

(From sketch by F. J. Jackson)

of these birds. They were congregated within a small area of open-wooded country recently swept by a grass-fire. Some of them were on the ground, others were resting on trees, whilst many were soaring in the air almost within gun-shot. When in the act of rising from the ground or a tree, the neck is stretched out; but directly the bird is well on the wing the head is drawn in like a heron's, but with this difference: whereas the heron holds its bill and feet horizontally, the bill and feet of a Marabou are depressed and held slightly downwards.

THE RHINO AND ITS CURIOUS DIET

By C. W. HOBLEY

It is, I think, not widely known that rhinos have a great predilection for the *Euphorbia candelabra*. The A-Kamba of Kikumbulu know well this fact, and if in clearing for a shamba they cut down a euphorbia often sit up all night in a neighbouring tree to watch for the rhinos, for they say that a dead euphorbia acts as a kind of bait. Their story is that the first night or two the rhinos will walk round the tree, sniff at it, but about the third night will commence to eat it and will come back night after night till all the softer parts are devoured. It is curious that a tree with such an ample protection of thorns and such an acrid sap should prove palatable to even a rhino.

It is possible that the rhino waits a couple of days or so in order to allow the acrid sap to coagulate, and it may be that a ferment sets in in the dead tissues of the tree which neutralises the noxious properties of the sap. This genus of euphorbia is called 'Kithui' by the A-Kamba. The rhino are also said to be very fond of a trailing euphorbia called 'Ndao' by the A-Kamba and 'Utupa' by the Swahilis. This habit of the rhino has been verified by Mr. G. Dean of Kibwezi.

The 'Utupa' has been recently identified as *Euphorbia Tirucalli* and is said to have an economic future.

NEW SHELLS FOUND AT NAIROBI

The Rev. Marcus Falloon communicates the interesting information that amongst some shells that he found recently on the Hill, and which he sent home to the British Museum for identification, there are two varieties new to science which belong to the genus *Limnicolaria* and to the genus *Succinea*.