

his friend when he watched him fire at the woodcock, and was looking in the same direction as the shot was travelling.—[Ed.]

## MOVING PICTURES OF AN AFRICAN HUNT.

SIR,—I have read with considerable pleasure the letter signed "Mannlicher" on the above subject in the *Field* of the 25th ult., and most heartily endorse his statement that "the unhappy feature of the sport achieved and the photos exhibited is the wholesale slaughtering of lions by a method which makes a certainty of success, while removing all element of danger." There is no doubt about the fact that such a *modus operandi* renders the task of the man with the camera fairly easy and safe, particularly when he is supported by one or more well-armed men and the king of beasts is being harried in front and behind by a pack of yelping mongrel dogs. But to many of us who have previously tried unaided and alone, first to photograph a dangerous animal, and then possibly shoot it in self defence, the exhibition of these pictures does not raise in our hearts such a feeling of thrill as it might do if the pictures were taken under different conditions. Far be it from me to underrate the nerve of the man behind the camera even in this particular case. But what of the sportsman who has started this form of hunting the noblest specimen of big game in British dominions, and what credit can he claim for having made a record bag of lions by such means in Africa? Not long ago I was entertained hospitably by the members of a sporting club in New York, and with much pride a member displayed a series of the original pictures of Mr Paul Rainey's pack rounding up lions, and we were informed that he had already made a record bag by this means. As I had only just arrived back from my third season's shooting in Alaska, where the largest specimens of dangerous game are found on the American continent to-day, and where the most recent enactment of the game laws says "it shall be unlawful for any person at any time to hunt with dogs any of the game animals specified in this Act," and where the law only allows a sportsman to shoot three of the great Alaskan bears per annum, my feelings can be better imagined than described.

There is no doubt that there are to-day a number of really good sportsmen amongst the Americans, and many of them are my personal friends; but the majority of them are infatuated with the idea of doing something bigger than others. And whether it is the bag made by a distinguished American hunter in a game reserve which is closed to Englishmen in their own dominions, or whether it is a bag made by means of methods which are illegal in America, the fact remains that we Britishers do not feel that our American cousins are playing the game quite square when they do it.

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