

powder and .30z. of shot. They were very hard, clean shooting guns, and many are still in use.

CHARLES LANCASTER AND CO. LTD.

MOVING PICTURES OF AN AFRICAN HUNT.

SIR,—Like many others interested in African sport, I paid a visit last week to the American cinematograph show at Holborn. It is, in my opinion, a mixture of good and bad, with a certain amount of "fairy tales" thrown in. A coloured picture of a dead wildebeeste shows a ludicrous want of knowledge by representing the animal as a bright red colour, whereas it is, of course, a slate-blue brindie. Fairy tales are also, I think, to the front in what is represented as the rhinoceros photographed charging the camera, also in the lioness shot in the act of charging, and depicted lying within 6ft. of the camera. In the former case the rhino shows no sign of attempting to charge, but, after getting rather fussy and nervous, suddenly wheels round and bolts. It must be left to the imagination whether a shot caused him to bolt or the sight of the camera. In the case of the lioness it is easy to place a camera close to a dead lioness. According to the story, the lioness was badly wounded, and the camera, being brought to get a living picture of the wounded animal, the lioness recovered her feet and came on, finally to succumb to the third or fourth bullet from the several sportsmen who were acting as a bodyguard to the photographer. Surely the security of the photographer so guarded would not have been impaired by taking a snapshot or two of what would have proved the type of photo that some of us have long been trying to take single-handed with an ordinary Kodak. It is incredible that such an opportunity should have been allowed to pass unused. The photos are in most cases extremely fine, but the illustrations of the method by which most of this slaughter of lions was effected—*i.e.*, with a pack of dogs—are almost painful to any true sporting instinct. The introducer of the pictures announced this hunting of lions with dogs as being an entirely new thing, whereas it is as old as the hills, though, I am glad to say, it is not often adopted by sportsmen, as it gives the lion no chance, and removes all element of danger from the hunter. These photographs of a noble beast like a lion being done to death by a mob of armed men, aided by a large pack of dogs, are almost pathetic. In parts of Africa where the country has been colonised and the farmers keep flocks, it may be necessary to use such methods to exterminate the lions, but please do not let us describe them as coming under the heading of sport. To see these photos of this unfortunate lion, badgered and worried by a large pack of dogs, on whom every particle of his attention is concentrated, made a target of by a lot of well-armed men shooting in absolute security, scarcely suggests sport. To have killed this holocaust of lions, cubs of all sizes were probably included. In one instance at least, as the films tell us, the bag was swollen by traps, while history does not relate whether poison was amongst the "also ran." The rest of the pictures are admirable, the series of pictures of animals at the water hole being simply splendid, while the cheetah hunt with dogs, which in this instance are left to do the work unaided by rifles, is most realistic. 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. One lion followed up and killed single-handed and on foot in the true sportsmanlike way is worth twenty got by such methods. It is singular that with some seventy-five lions killed we are not shown a single photograph of a lion at bay unhampered by the dogs. Surely there must have been opportunities. There is, however, ample compensation for this in the really magnificent photos at the water hole.

MANNLICHER.