GENEROUS GIFT.

Additions to Weston Park Museum.

The natural history collection at the Weston Park Museum has been recently enriched by the addition of a number of interesting and attractively mounted British wild animals. These have been generously presented by Mr. G. W. Staniforth, of this city, and are now on view for the pleasure and instruction of visitors. Mr. Staniforth has a wide knowledge of natural history, and is specially devoted to the study of the habits and ways of public animals known among sportsmen as "Big Game." He has made this study one his favourite hobby, and in pursuing it has acquired many excellent specimens of mounted heads and horns.

His gift to the Museum comprises eleven specimens belonging to various groups of the antelope, or Bovidæ Mammalian family, which includes all the bovine and antler-bearing animals, and also other horns. A comprehensive collection of horns and antlers has been for many years one of the special attractions of the Museum, but complete mounted heads were not numerously represented there, so that the recent additions are particularly welcome for their value as more vividly portraying some of the varied and majestic antlers and horns of cattle-ing order. Horns have always been of primary importance to Sheffield cutlers, and they form one of its most ancient industry, which also gives this gift militarist significance.

True horns are unbranched sheaths supported on bony cores which grow out from the frontal bones of the skull, and are exemplified in the

CAPE HARTEBEEST.

DERBIAN ELAND.

hollow-horned ruminants (cows, sheep, goats, and antelopes). In the wild state, in natural life, horns are confined to the male sex in the majority of antelopes; in others they occur in both sexes. In the "trade" the term "horns" includes also the cerebral appendages of deer, which have quite a different structure; these are more correctly defined by naturalists as antlers. Antlers are branched outgrowths of the frontal bones, and during their growth are covered with a hairy skin known as "velvet," which is sensitive and well supplied with blood. When growth is completed, the velvet dries up and hardens and bare insensitive bone as a weapon of defence or offence. Antlers in the species attained full size to be renewed again the following spring. Rutting in the reindeer, antlers are confined to the male sex.

A head of a male American elk, or moose, bearing enormous palmated antlers, is a striking example of the largest member of the deer family. Its short neck, and broad, flashy, overhanging muzzle, indicates that it is a browser and not a grazing, animal like most deer. Elk, although nowhere abundant, have an extensive range of habitat within the northern latitudes where they inhabit forest regions in Europe, Siberia, and North China, as well as North America. Their food consists principally of the leaves and twigs of trees, willow and birch. A more typical member of the deer tribe and allied to the Reindeer, is the Wapiti, or American Stag, which is also a widely distributed species, being a type of wapiti found in Eastern North America, where it is commonly mismanned the elk.

Head of an American Bison.

A fine head of an American bison, with luxurious mane and beard, is a striking object in the gift, and conveys an excellent impression of this truly magnificent beast. Early in the 19th century bison existed in countless numbers on the prairies of North America, but are now almost extinct as a wild species. In the United States some are preserved in Parks where, through the splendid efforts of the American Bison Society in recent years, they have multiplied rapidly. The only wild herd is to be found in Canada occupying a forest area of about 4,000 square miles in extent from the south of Great Slave Lake in North West Territory and Alberta. It is surprising that this survival of what was once a numerous prairie fauna, should now be restricted to a forest area, and it is especially interesting because through its adaption and the altered conditions of environment, it has developed certain characters causing zoologists to recognise it as a distinct race or subspecies, and is popularly defined as Wood Bison."

True antelopes are typically "animals of the plains of the Old World, and are represented specially at home in Africa. Five specimens, from that continent, shown and well illustrate the diverse features and crania adornments of these interesting animals. The Kudu, which has a long and extremely narrow face, outstanding ears, and a high cranium with a large and conspicuous crest extending from the summit, these combined characters giving him a rather grotesque appearance. Next to this is shown a rising, or kortgum, a form related to the hartebeest, but possessing a very distinctive physiognomy. Then there is a roan antelope, a near relative of the sable antelope, on a handsome alert looking creature, with long cylindrical horns sweeping backward in a bold semicircular shaped curve, a long face, a charming expression with a gentle countenance, and the horns are long and sweeping, and the tips of the horns are lopes lead far too active a life in coping with the unceasing attacks of predatory enemies, and become really fat, and the only African forms which are so characterised are those which are the largest of all antelopes, are heavily built animals. They are gregarious, in large herds and spend the greater part of the year in forest, or bush covered country. The species established also in the Sudan from there illustrated; an inhabitant of West and Central Africa, is one found in the dense forest of its own accord. This antelope head carries a pair of massive spiral horns, each spirally twisted outwards on its own axis from the base to the point.

The roan of wild prate is represented by an Asiatic then from the Himalayas. Its horns are very long, transversely ridged, and sweep backwards to form a nearly complete circle.

From Northern Nigeria.

Last of all is the gigantic eland, a black rhinoceros from Northern Nigeria. This head has been skilfully mounted, and presents to us a first class example of taxidermic art. There are two horns above the forehead of the head, the boosted upper lip is prehensile, adapted to the habit of feeding among the young shoots of trees and bushes, and differing from the square-lipped rhinoceros which is principally a grazing animal.

Since early in the 19th century big game has disappeared from many parts of the Old World. Reference has already been made to the disappearance of the bison from the North American Prairies, South Africa provides the most startling illustration of the banishment of a big game fauna of wonderful variety and abundance almost within living memory. Every plain, desert, forbidden and forest was populated with characteristic animal forms so numerous that the country resembled the frequentary of natural zoological park. Hide and ivory hunters were attracted to this rich storehouse of game, they

(Continued on last column of next column.)

[Photo: Keystone. Block: Lenz, Ltd.

FRENCH ARMY MARCHING INTO ESSEN.

Forty thousand French soldiers, with armoured cars, Tanks, gas masks, machine guns, and cavalry, entered Essen, Germany, yesterday to the French mining engineers. French troops marching into Essen.

THE MARE THAT WENT.

Claim Against Sheffield Auctioneers Fails.

"Money makes the mare to go," but in a case which came before Judge Liss, at Sheffield County Court, yesterday, it turned out that the mare had "gone" in a double sense, and that a horse dealer's money had gone with her. She was a sober mare, which the dealer bought by auction. He sold her again, but when her rightful ownership was established he had to return the purchase price. Now, he tried to get his money back from the auctioneers, but failed. The case was of much interest to all who are concerned in horse auctions.

The plaintiff, Frank Joseph Woodhead, greengrocer, 264, Pemistone Road, Sheffield, claimed from the defendants, Messrs. Nicholson, Barber and Hastings, auctioneers, High Street, Sheffield, £25 for failure of consideration.

Opening plaintiff's case Mr. W. Irwin Mitchell said that on April 24th plaintiff visited the defendants' sale of horses at their repository at Castle Green. Plaintiff bought a piebald mare and harness for £16 5s. 6d. and afterwards sold it to a Mrs. Davies, a friend, for £25.

Then it transpired that the mare had been stolen and Woodhead had been ordered by the County Court to refund the money to Mrs. Davies. It was this money that he now sought to recover.

The defendants stated that the piebald mare was sold according to the conditions of sale posted up, but it was claimed by plaintiff that the conditions were not published at the sale, but that since the proceedings the conditions had been posted up on the front of the rostrum. An auctioneer to escape liability must make it certain that he was an agent and disclose the identity of the principal.

Plaintiff stated this was the only sale he had attended before the conditions of sale were not prominently displayed. He had attended the defendants' sales for years and did not see any copy of the conditions until about a fortnight ago, when they were on the front of the rostrum.

Auctioneer Not the Principal.

Mr. G. H. Okell, who appeared for the defence, contended that the sales were always conducted subject to the conditions posted at the office door and on the rostrum. As the purchaser knew that the auctioneer was selling the goods of other people, then the auctioneer was not personally liable, and if anybody was wrong the remedy was against the vendor.

Mr. Alan Hastings said he was a member of the firm of Nicholson, Barber and Hastings. He had been selling horses for 30 years. He advertised the sale by sending in a newspaper produced. A man named Bailey brought a piebald mare, and he sold it. The plaintiff was the purchaser.

At the beginning of the sale he said he sold according to the usual conditions of sale, at purchaser's risk.

Cross-examined by Mr. Mitchell: When they advertised property he always put "usual conditions," but in horse sales they did not do so. The defendants were understood. It was not done by any other auctioneer.

He stated that the condition with regard to the mare was warranted had been posted four o'clock. It was for those present to find out under what conditions the mare was sold. There was a reserve on this horse.

Cyril Mitchell said the conditions were posted on the front of the rostrum and on the office door.

Cross-examined: The notice on the rostrum had been there for years and it was forgotten because some of it was difficult to read. A notice used to be displayed on the stable, and that had been transferred to the office door.

His Honour said it was a fact that the notice was posted on the rostrum in the sale ring and also on the door near the stable. The plaintiff had opportunities to discover what the conditions were and he knew they existed, and not having taken the trouble to discover what they were he (the Judge) held that he was bound by those conditions. Judgment for defendants, with costs.

SHEFFIELD EX-SOLDIER DIVORCED.

In the Divorce Court, yesterday, a woman whose home is at Hunter's Bar, Sheffield, secured a divorce from her husband. The applicant was Mrs. Fancy Gunthorpe, living at Hunter's Road, and she was granted a decree nisi on account of the adultery with her husband of Ernest Walter.

Petitioner said they were married in 1915, and lived at Park Street, Southport. Her husband was in the Army, and when he came out of the Army he lost most of his money betting, and she had to complain of his conduct with a Mrs. Stubbins. Evidence was given that he could spend the said the woman was his mistress.

He frequently assaulted petitioner, and had tried to strangle her, pulled her hair, and once struck her a blow on the head that he could have been attributed by hitting his arm. Mr. Justice Greaves returned a decree nisi, and evidence was given that respondent and Mrs. Stubbins were living at the Sheffieldbury Hotel, Great Andrew Street, London.

MAN'S SUICIDE IN A TUB.

An inquest was held by the Sheffield Coroner (Mr. J. Kenyon Parker) on Richard Thacker (58) of 3, Stonebow Place, Sheffield, who was found drowned in a water tub early yesterday morning.

Thacker had recently undergone an operation for rupture. Evidence was given that he could not have fallen into the tub accidently.

The Coroner returned a verdict of suicide, adding that there was no evidence to show the man's state of mind.

SHEFFIELD FEVER HOSPITALS.

Last night's report of the condition of patients in the Sheffield Fever Hospitals is as follows:—Dangerously ill—3328 54 29 62 2359 2356 2341 89 Very ill—15 55 68 6.

Improving—3 4 5 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46