



**Shooting in Nepal.** By the time these lines are in print the great Delhi Durbar will be a splendid memory; all the princes and potentates will be moving back to their own States, and the great army which was collected to salute the King-

Emperor will have broken up again into its units, each of which will be marching back to its own station. The King will be in the Nepal Terai ready to enjoy the very finest sport that the world can show, for there is no tiger-shooting that can compare with that to be had in the great space of jungle and barren land which lies at the foot of the first of the many ranges of hills which compose the kingdom of Nepal. The Nepalese take very reasonable precautions to maintain the independence of their kingdom; and though they are most loyal allies of the British Raj and send us the Gurkhas, their little hill-men, to serve under the British flag, and are counselled as to their foreign policy by a British Resident, they only allow Europeans to go up to Katmandhu, the capital, by one mountain-path, and then only when they are furnished with the necessary passports, all other roads in the mountains being forbidden to strangers.



THE NEW MASTER OF THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY DRAG: MR. E. R. PALMER, TRINITY COLLEGE.

Photograph by Crisp.

territory, and was given back to the Nepalese for services rendered to the British Crown, is not forbidden ground to the extent that the hill country is. British officials living near the border are given permission by the Nepalese Government to shoot a certain number of tigers yearly in the Terai, this number varying, as a rule, with the rank of the official to whom the permission is given. There is excellent mahseer fishing in some of the rivers, where they tumble out of the hills on to the slope leading down to the plain, and many of the planters in Behar, as well as men in the Government services, are allowed to fish these rivers without any question being asked. The tigers in the Terai are to a certain extent preserved, in that they may not be shot except by permission of the Government; and all the harm they do is occasionally to kill and carry off some of the cattle which graze near the thinly scattered villages. Summer is the usual time during which tigers are shot, for then great patches can be burnt in the dry, long grasses, and these patches are useful as making cleared spaces to which the striped game can be driven.

#### How the Maharajah Shoots.

The method of shooting when the Maharajah of Nepal gives a big shooting-party, as he will give for the King, is that two or three regiments of soldiers are sent down from Katmandhu into the Terai to act as beaters, and that a vast number of elephants, of which there are plenty in Nepal, are collected. The whereabouts of a number of tigers are known, and an immense circle is formed of elephants, with men in between as beaters. Little elephants, very quick of foot, are used to carry the officers who regulate the closing in of the enormous circle. There is a great noise of tom-toms and gongs, and shouting and firing-off of guns as the circle begins to close, and the tigers in the ring, hearing the clamour, begin to move restlessly from place to place looking for an opening, but being always headed back. The principal guest on his elephant has on either side of him, on their elephants, two of the surest shots in India, to make quite certain that if a charging tiger is not stopped by a bullet from the royal rifle it will be stopped by a bullet from a man on either side of him. Of course, this is an unnecessary precaution with our King, for he will be assuredly the best shot of all the good shots who will be in the field in the Terai.

#### When a Tiger Charges.

Closer and closer draws the circle of the elephants, and louder and louder grows the noise at all points except one—the point where the shooting-party on their elephants are waiting for the great game to attempt to break out. At last, through the yellow and russet grasses something moves at the pace of an express engine. It is a tiger making his dash for life, and prepared to charge at anything which stands in his way. If he is not stopped, he will be, at one spring, up on to the forehead of an elephant, clawing at the mahout seated on its neck. But it is a thousand to one that no tiger ever gets as far as this. The rush of each fierce, striped thing through the grass is stopped by the bullets, and a beautiful, limp, dead thing is collected when the shooting is finished, and hoisted up on to one of the pad elephants, to be carried in triumph to camp to be skinned, and to become, later on, an ornament in some lady's drawing-room.

#### The Royal Game of Nepal.

The royal game animals of Nepal, however, are not tigers but rhinoceri. The rhinoceri living by the rivers in some parts of the Terai are preserved for the shooting of the Maharajah, the Prime Minister of Nepal, and his brothers and their sons, and he must either be a royal guest or a stranger of very great distinction to whom permission to shoot any of these animals is given. It is their rarity more than any particular sport in the hunting of them which causes them to be held in such honour. In some parts of British India there is quite good rhinoceros-shooting, and I fancy that the late Maharajah of Kooch Behar used to show the guests at his shooting-parties excellent sport after rhino.

#### Belgium's Military Difficulties.

The Belgian Ministers have quite as many bad quarters-of-an-hour over their Territorial troops as the British Ministers have over ours. It was asserted in the Belgian Chamber that had there been war this summer in Europe the Germans could have swept through Belgium without meeting any resistance likely to delay them for any length of time, and could have taken Antwerp before British soldiers could have landed. While denying this, the Government acknowledged that things were not as they should be, and promised amendment. The integrity of Belgium is guaranteed by the Great Powers, but it is always to England that the little country looks as a friend in need should war break out between Germany and France. She is, however, bound to keep on foot a sufficient army to garrison



THE SECOND AIRWOMAN IN ENGLAND TO GAIN HER PILOT'S CERTIFICATE: MRS. STOCKS IN HER AVIATION DRESS.

Mrs. Maurice Hewlett, wife of the famous novelist, was the first airwoman in England to win a pilot's certificate. Mrs. Stocks is the second. She obtained her brevet at the Grahame-White School on a Gnome-Farman. She performed a series of five figures of eight at a height of 500 feet, and, later, carried out the other evolutions necessary for a pass. Having succeeded in her endeavours, she gave a passenger-flight to her friend, Mrs. Gates; this, it is believed, was the first occasion on which a lady passenger had made an ascent on an aeroplane controlled by a lady pilot.

Photograph by Kate Pragnell.

her fortresses and to leave a margin for field work. This margin, however, seems never to be forthcoming, and on more than one occasion Great Britain has had to remind her that if the worst comes to the worst Belgium can only expect her army to be supported in the field, and that the British Army cannot be expected to take the place of a Belgian one.



A GREAT CENTRE OF ATTRACTION AT MONTE CARLO THIS YEAR: MR. D. APPELBY.

Mr. Appelby, a well-known American, has been paying by no means his first visit to Monte Carlo this year; but for the first time his play there has been of a sensational nature, and he has been a great centre of attraction. —[Photograph by E. Nuvellio.]