

THE GAME LAWS IN INDIA.

SIR,—In an interesting article on the "Game Laws in India" in your issue of May 7 E. D. C. states that Burma has not yet adopted game laws. An Elephant Protection Act has been in force for some years, and there must have been a Wild Birds Protection Act also, as I remember hearing that the brow-antlered deer (*Panolia eldii*) had been afforded protection by being gazetted to be "a wild bird within the meaning of the Act." This stage of makeshifts is now passed, and simple but effective game laws have been embodied in the Burma Forest Act of 1902, and the rules thereunder published on Dec. 5, 1903. Under these rules no one may shoot in a reserved forest without a licence, which costs Rs10, and is issued by the divisional forest officer.

In reserves the following animal are sacred throughout the year, viz., females of buffalo, bison, saing (*Bos sondaicus*), sambur, hog-deer thamin (*Panolia eldii*), wild goat, and rhinoceros; males of all deer, except barking deer, if hornless or with horns in velvet. There is a close time for males of all deer except barking deer from June 15 to Oct. 15, regardless of the condition of their horns. Hares, peafowl, pheasants, quail, jungle fowl, and partridges have a close time from March 1 to Aug. 31. For purposes of trade none of the above animals (including barking deer) may be killed in a reserve, and the following birds are also added to the protected list: Owls (except fishing owls), the swallow tribe, nightjars, bee-eaters (including rollers) kingfishers, hornbills, woodpeckers, barbets, honeysuckers, creepers, hoopoes, shrikes (including minivets), fly-catchers, thrushes, bulbuls, orioles, redstarts, wagtails, tits, mynas, gold finches, rose finches, trogons, broadbills, peafowl, herons, and terns. It is also forbidden in reserves to dynamite or poison water, to erect dams, weirs, field traps, or divert any stream for the purpose of catching fish, to drive fish, or to use any net having a mesh of less than lin. square. As our reserves total up to about 20,000 square miles and are rapidly increasing, these rules must be markedly beneficial to game and fish if thoroughly enforced.

There are also rules for the protection of game in unclassified forests (estimated at 88,000 square miles). These forbid the killing of female bison, sambur, or thamin throughout the year, and of male thamin from June 15 to Oct. 15. The dynamiting of water is likewise prohibited, as is also the killing for sale of adjutants, storks, egrets, ibis, herons, and kingfishers. For dynamiting water the offender may get six months' imprisonment and Rs 500 fine. For all other offences the penalty is limited to a fine of Rs.50. But in reserves, when the damage done can be shown to exceed Rs.25, the fine may extend to twice the amount of such damage. G. R. I.