

BIG-GAME SHOOTING with the CAMERA

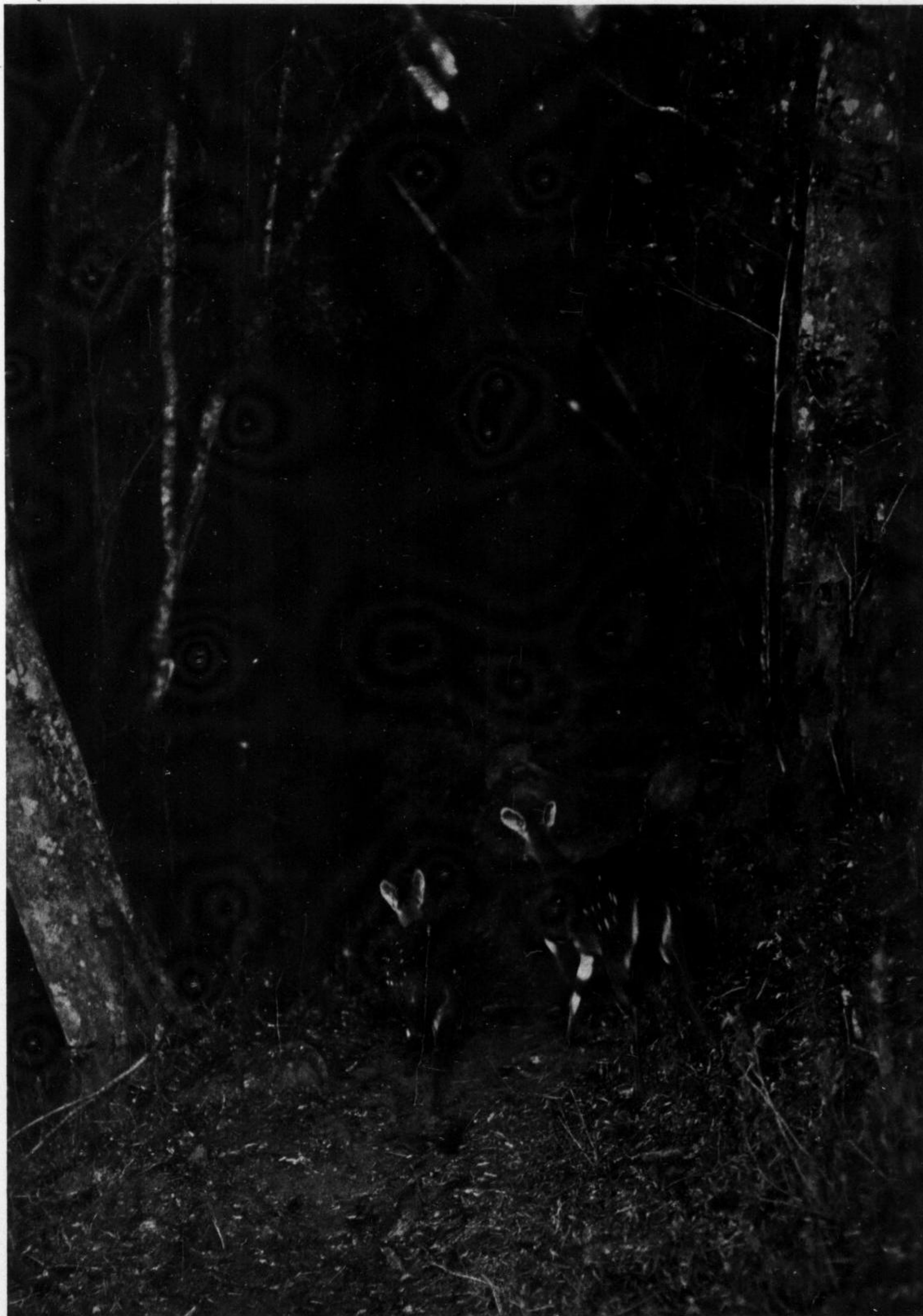
BY CAPTAIN J. G. DOLLMAN.

MR. AND MRS. MARTIN JOHNSON, the well known big-game photographers, have just concluded a four years' stay among the wild animals of the Northern Frontier Province of Kenya Colony, and have returned to America with numerous films and photographs of thousands of elephants and hundreds of lions. The negatives are destined for the archives of the American Museum of Natural History, but they will first be publicly shown both in America and this country.

From the photographs here reproduced it is evident that we are promised a good exhibition of records of East African game animals, one which will undoubtedly, at least, hold its own with the works of Dugmore, Kearton, Maxwell and the

pioneer animal photographers, Schillings and Lord Delamere. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson made their headquarters at Lake Paradise, in the Marsabit district of Kenya Colony. From here trips were made to the surrounding country, the Ndoto Mountains, the Mathews Range, along the Northern Guaso Nyiro River, and even as far as Tanganyika. They had two objects in view, to photograph lions and elephants, and from the reports at present to hand they appear to have met with exceptionally good opportunities.

The Northern Guaso Nyiro is, of course, a favourite locality for the camera sportsman; it was there that Marius Maxwell obtained his wonderful photographs of a charging herd of elephants and numerous snapshots of rhinoceros and other beasts. Unlike



1.—ABYSSINIAN BUSHBUCK ON TRAIL IN THE FOREST.

Photographs by Martin Johnson. Copyright by The American Museum of Natural History.



2.—RHINO AT A WATER HOLE IN THE KAISOOT DESERT.

Maxwell, however, the Johnsons have made considerable use of the flashlight, and their work in this direction demonstrates how far we have advanced since the days of Schillings, the pioneer in flashlight photography in East Africa. The photograph of the elephant (Fig. 6), as it raided their sweet-potato patch at Lake Paradise, is a most remarkably sharp and clear record for a flashlight. It was probably obtained by the elephant itself firing the flash by pushing against a string or wire, in the same way as Schillings's flashlights were worked.

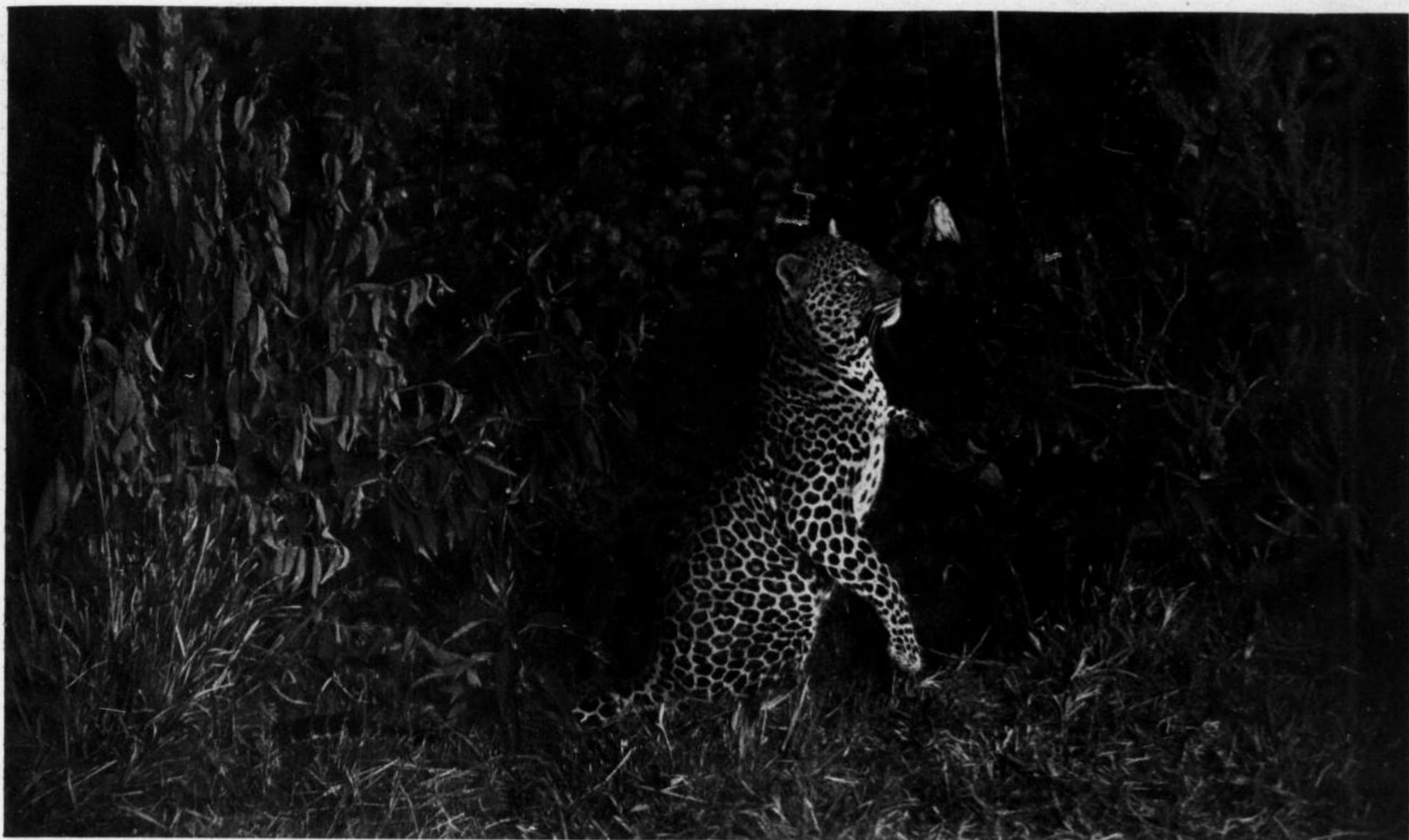
The result is, however, far in advance of any flashlight work hitherto undertaken. The detail that is observable in the animal's head and trunk is quite as sharp and well defined as in the daylight exposures of Maxwell and Dugmore. The head is turned slightly away from the camera, so that only one of the huge ears is seen, but this appears to be set forward in the well known attitude of alarm. An old bull elephant with its ears fully extended is a very impressive sight and one not easily

forgotten, as it nearly always assumes this attitude shortly before attacking. Sometimes the attack is only a feint attack, developed for intimidating purposes; it is then usually accompanied by a noisy demonstration, which is very trying to any but the toughest nerves. The assault proper is more often than not conducted in dead silence, with the head held high, the ears outspread, and the tusks thrust forward and levelled at the intended victim. The animal shown in the photograph is a cow elephant with fairly good tusks. In Africa the females carry long and slender ivory; in India the cows are either tuskless or armed with quite small tusks.

The African elephant is nowadays very scarce in the country to the south of the Zambesi; up to a few years ago a herd existed in the Addo Bush, Cape Colony, but this was destroyed by Government orders on account of the damage done to crops and fences. A few still remain in the Knysna and Zitzikama forests, Cape Colony, and the species is found sparingly up the east side



3.—A SPOTTED HYENA LOOKING FOR FOOD.



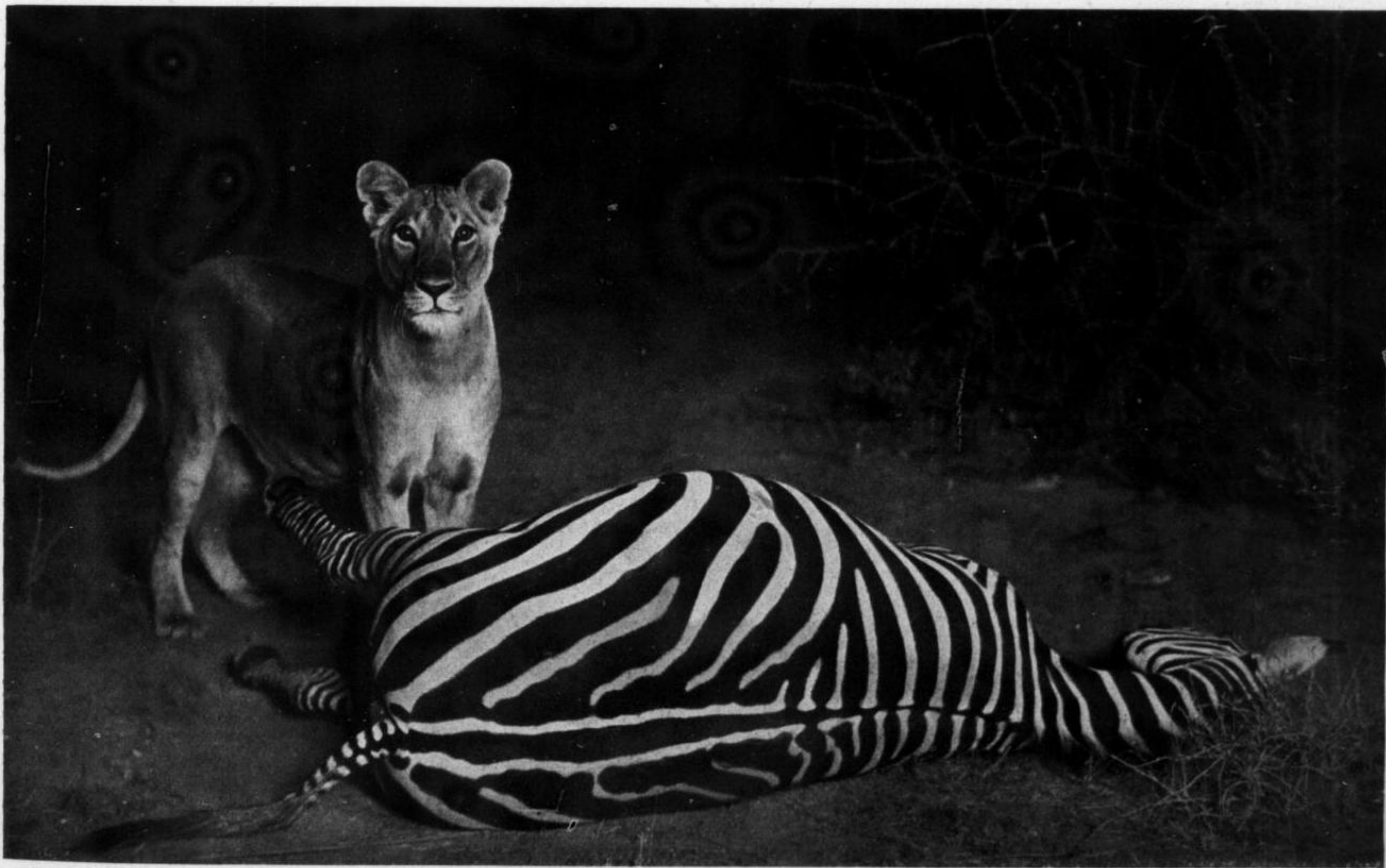
4.—A LEOPARD PHOTOGRAPHING HIMSELF BY STRIKING A PIECE OF MEAT.

of South Africa, but nowhere are there the vast herds to be found that existed in the days of the early settlers. The Cape or bush type of elephant extends northwards through North-East Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Tanganyika Territory and Kenya Colony into Somaliland and Abyssinia, and westward into the Sudan and Uganda. The forest type of elephant, with its long curly tusks, inhabits the Congo, Cameroons and other parts of West Africa. The reports of dwarf elephants are numerous; two such species have been described, one from the Congo and one from the Cameroons, but the evidence at present available tends to show that these pigmy or dwarf races, or species, have been founded on immature material, and at present it can be stated that there is no definite evidence of the existence of a dwarf species of elephant.

The photograph of the East African lioness (Fig. 5), with a dead Cuninghame's zebra is of exceptional interest; the look of surprise registered in the face of the animal is very evident—the flashlight nearly always produces a startled look in a wild animal;

even such an impassive and expressionless countenance as that of the elephant appears to unbend at the unusual experience. The detail and sharpness of this exposure are ample evidence of the skill with which the camera and flashlight were arranged. In this type of photography a large number of failures are a certainty, but with a good all-round knowledge of the subject, combined with a little good luck, such results as these are possible. Schillings in his early work with lions frequently only got a portion of the animal on the plate, but on one occasion he was fortunate enough to get two lions in one picture, one pulling down a tied-up calf and the other just coming on the scene.

Illustration No. 4, the leopard, is another interesting flashlight study, showing the animal in the act of photographing itself, having just touched a piece of meat attached to the wire which set off the flashlight. Here, again, we see the surprised expression on the animal's face, indicating that it is not quite accustomed to the limelight.



5.—FLASHLIGHT OF A LIONESS ON ZEBRA KILL.



6.—AN ELEPHANT LEAVING THE SWEET-POTATO PATCH.

The photograph of the spotted hyena (Fig. 3) shows this scavenger in a characteristic attitude. It is the largest of the three living species and easily distinguishable from the others by the spotted character of its coat. Both the striped and brown hyena are smaller beasts, standing only about 28ins. at the shoulder; whereas an adult spotted hyena is fully 31ins. in height.

The range of this hyena extended in modern times from Cape Colony to Egypt; in Cape Colony it is now nearly extinct, and is rare in the Transvaal and Zululand. Farther north and in south central Africa the species is quite common, and spreads northwards to Abyssinia and eastwards to the coast. In the west it reaches the Cameroons and Togoland. The spotted hyena is largely nocturnal in its habits and can frequently be met with in small parties.

The bushbucks seen in Fig. 1 represent one of the races of harnessed antelopes (*Tragelaphus scriptus*) common to East Africa. About thirty different forms of these bushbucks are now recognised; all of them may be considered as races of the West African harnessed antelope (*Tragelaphus scriptus*). Some of these may eventually prove to be worthy of specific rank, while others will undoubtedly be found to be only colour phases or individual variations.

Fig 2 shows us a fine example of the black rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros bicornis*) at a water hole on the Kaisoot Desert. This animal carries a medium-sized pair of horns, and the picture shows to advantage the pointed, beak-shaped upper lip which distinguishes this rhinoceros from the square-mouthed or white rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros simus*). The black rhinoceros is rather smaller than the white species, measuring about 5ft. 8ins. at the shoulder, whereas the other one exceeds 6ft. in height. The horns are also considerably smaller, 42ins. being a good length for a bull's horn; the horns of the cows are usually longer and more slender. This difference is very marked in the white

rhinoceros, where the record length of a female horn is as much as 5ft. 2ins., while the male horns rarely exceed 37ins. in length.

The black rhinoceros is now very scarce in South Africa; it was exterminated in Cape Colony about the year 1853 and since that date has been getting increasingly rare in all its former haunts south of the Zambesi. To the north of that river it is still found in north-east Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Tanganyika Territory, Kenya Colony, Somaliland, Abyssinia and westward, through Uganda and the Sudan, to Nigeria. In the Northern Frontier Province of Kenya Colony, where this photograph was taken, the black rhinoceros is still fairly abundant; it is, however, an animal that likes solitude and can at no time put up with the close proximity of civilisation. It will probably be one of the first of the greater game animals to disappear.

The days of the great game animals of Africa, in spite of protective measures, must be regarded as numbered. Big game and civilisation cannot exist side by side, and the time must come when all these relics of a more ancient world will vanish once and for all. We have seen in our own time some animals, like the quagga, which existed in numbers great beyond counting, disappear; we are even now, with all our rules and regulations, witnessing the extinction of such animals as the southern white rhinoceros and the Javan rhinoceros. Herein lies the value of such photographic representations of wild animal life; when centuries hence the last wild elephant shall have ceased to trumpet and the lion's roar shall no longer rend the stillness of the African night, then posterity will have these records of a world as strange to it as the days of the mammoth and cave bear are to us.

"THE PASSING SEASONS"

UNDER this title a companion to Mr. Lionel Edwards' "Sportsman's Bag" will shortly be issued by COUNTRY LIFE. In deference to the wishes of many of Mr. Edwards' admirers—though it will be similar in format—"The Passing Seasons" will be rather more convenient in size. The artist has endeavoured to produce something much more attractive than a mere set of sporting pictures, and he has succeeded in every case in reproducing the subtle and elusive charm of that jewelled "setting," the open air of the countryside. The *édition de luxe* of this volume will contain eighteen plates, mounted on superfine drawing paper (17ins. by 13½ins.), platemarked, and each of them will be autographed by the artist. Only 150 copies are for home sale and 100 are to be sold abroad at a price of £10 10s. each. More than three-quarters of the home copies have already been subscribed.

When "A Sportsman's Bag" was published last year, the publishers received so many letters expressing disappointment that copies of the autographed edition had almost instantly become unobtainable that they hope intending purchasers of the *de luxe* edition of "The Passing Seasons" will indicate the fact should they intend to send the copies they purchase overseas.

A popular edition, in which the plates will be beautifully mounted on tinted boards, will be issued at £3 3s. Further particulars will be issued shortly.



7.—MR. AND MRS. MARTIN JOHNSON.