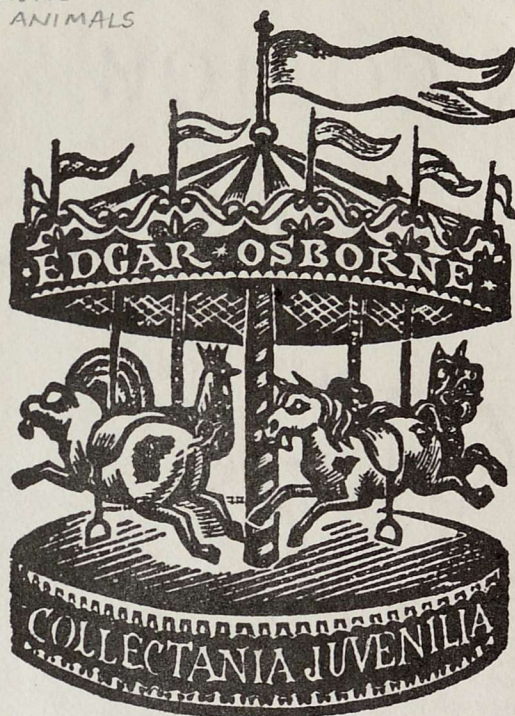


A
PICTURE BOOK
OF ANIMALS



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PICTURE BOOK OF
ANIMALS



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Ann Sutherland

THE BROWN BEAR

wades into rivers in search of salmon and other fish, and if he be very hungry will kill and eat a lamb or young goat, or an unwary fowl. Besides, those of us who have seen him climbing up his pole in the Zoo know how much he enjoys a bun.

Our dear old docile Brown Bear once upon a time inhabited a very large portion of the world, and was even common in our own country. He is still met with in many parts of Europe, almost all through Asia, and to some extent in the north of Africa.

Now, though we call Bruin the Brown Bear, his coat is not always of that colour. He clothes himself to suit the colours of the country in which he lives. For instance, in Norway and Sweden, where the winter is long, and there is a great deal of snow, he is gray or even white. In alpine regions of Europe and Asia he is of various shades of brown, or grayish, while in other parts both of Europe and Asia he is almost black. In this way he is protected from his enemies, for in a land which is covered with snow it is more difficult to see a white animal than a dark one, while in countries where there are many colours a dark animal is not so easily noticed as a white one.

His coat is always shaggy and thick and warm, and Bear-skin is much valued on account of its beautiful fur.

During the winter Bruin retires to a cave or a hollow tree, where he sleeps for several months. He does not require to eat anything all this time, for he has got fat in the feasting-time of the year in order that he may be able to live for a great many days without food.

The Chimpanzee

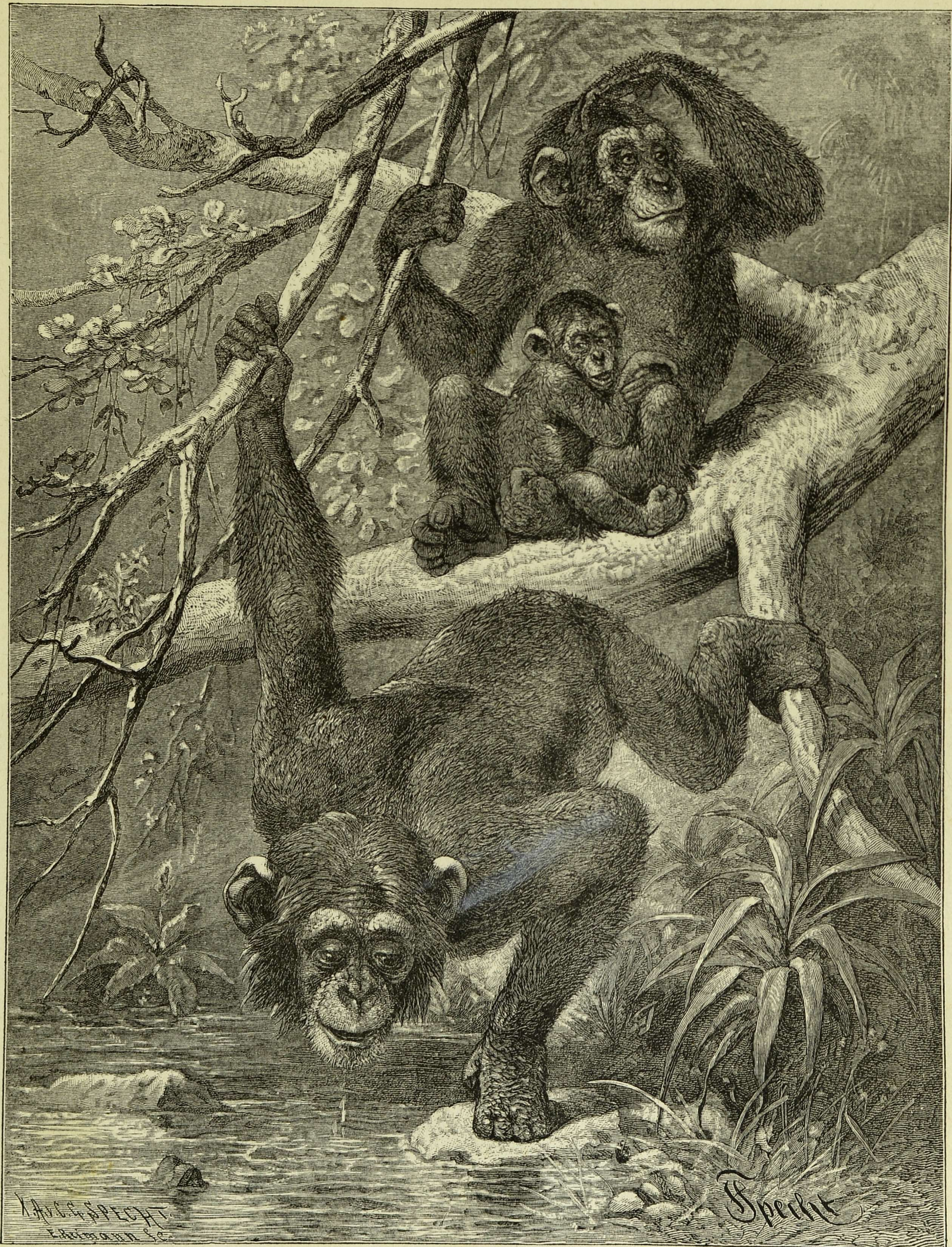
THE Chimpanzee is a sort of large monkey without a tail. He can only live in very warm countries, and makes his home in the hottest parts of Central and Western Africa.

The Chimpanzee is a four-handed animal—that is to say, he is able to use his feet like hands. This helps him very much in climbing among the trees of his native forests; for he likes to spend his days high up in the trees, and is much more at home among the branches than upon solid earth.

It is said that the Chimpanzee builds a kind of nest in the higher branches. Some say he adds a roof to keep off the rain.

Those who study animals and their habits tell us that the Chimpanzee is more like man than any other animal, but though he has some sense, it is only about as much, perhaps, as a child when it begins to talk. Of course he cannot manage to speak, and remains a poor dumb creature all his days.

When they are tamed these animals can sometimes be trained in a wonderful way. They will learn to feed themselves with a spoon, and to drink out of a tumbler, and one that was kept in the Zoo for some time was taught to count up to ten. She could count six straws perfectly, that is, she would pick up any number of straws from one to six correctly, but above six she often made mistakes. No doubt she would have learnt many more things, but this country was too cold for her, and she did not live long.



K. H. SPECHT
Edinburgh, Sc.

Specht

THE CHIMPANZEE

The Leopard

THE Leopard is a near relation of the lion and the tiger. He is not so large as they are, however, and his coat is spotted, while the lion's is plain and the tiger's is striped.

Like the lion and tiger, the Leopard is one of the fiercest of wild animals. He is even more active than the tiger in attacking his prey and defending himself. Unlike the lion and the tiger, however, he is as much at home in the trees as our own petted pussy is, and runs up the straightest and smoothest stem with ease.

The Leopard prefers rocky, hilly country. Among the rocks, in clefts and caverns, he sleeps during the day, and in the evening begins his prowling among the bushes on the look-out for prey.

It is said that the Leopard will often carry the carcass of his victim up into a tree and leave it there till he is hungry again. The skeletons of antelopes and of other animals are sometimes found in such positions, and the Leopard is the most likely animal to have placed them there. His object is doubtless to put such food out of reach of the jackals and hyenas, who would soon find it if he left it on the ground.

The Leopard is a daring animal. He prowls around the villages of India for the purpose of carrying off a stray sheep or ass or cow, but he is specially fond of dogs. He has been known, even in broad daylight, to snatch up pet dogs almost out of the very hands of their owners.

Leopards seldom attack human beings, and they only occasionally become man-eaters. When they do they are as much to be dreaded as the tiger.



THE LEOPARD

The Alligator

THE strange creature which we call the Alligator makes his home in the rivers of the hot regions of America. He is a large animal, and sometimes measures about twenty feet from the snout to the tip of the tail.

But though he is so large he has very short legs. This is because long legs would be very much in his way when he is swimming, and because he spends almost all his time in the water and very seldom needs to go on dry land. When he does come out of the water he moves very slowly and clumsily along the shore, for his neck is so stiff that he cannot turn his head to either side, and his legs are not strong enough to carry his huge body quickly.

But in the water he is very quick and active. He does not swim with his legs as many other animals do, but with his tail, and as this is very powerful it enables him to go at a great rate, and so to catch his prey.

The young Alligators are hatched from eggs, like chickens. The mother Alligator lays her eggs on the bank of the river and covers them over with sand. Then she leaves them to be hatched by the heat of the sun. But she remains near them and watches the spot. When they first break through the shells the little Alligators are very helpless, and many of them are destroyed by other animals and birds of prey.

The Alligator is a fierce animal, and makes a very dangerous enemy. He sometimes attacks man, and has been known to upset a canoe by a blow with his tail. As he has a very hard and tough hide it is difficult to kill him. Even a bullet will glance off his back.



AN ALLIGATOR FAMILY

The Tiger

IF a cat could be made as large as a tiger, there would be very little difference between the two animals. The colour, of course, would not be the same, for that of a tiger is tawny yellow, with a number of blackish-brown stripes running round the body and the limbs. One would think that with this bright colouring the animal would be very easily seen by his enemies and his intended victims. Yet those who have met with the tiger in his native jungles say that he is hardly visible, for his hues are very like those of the bushes and plants among which he lives.

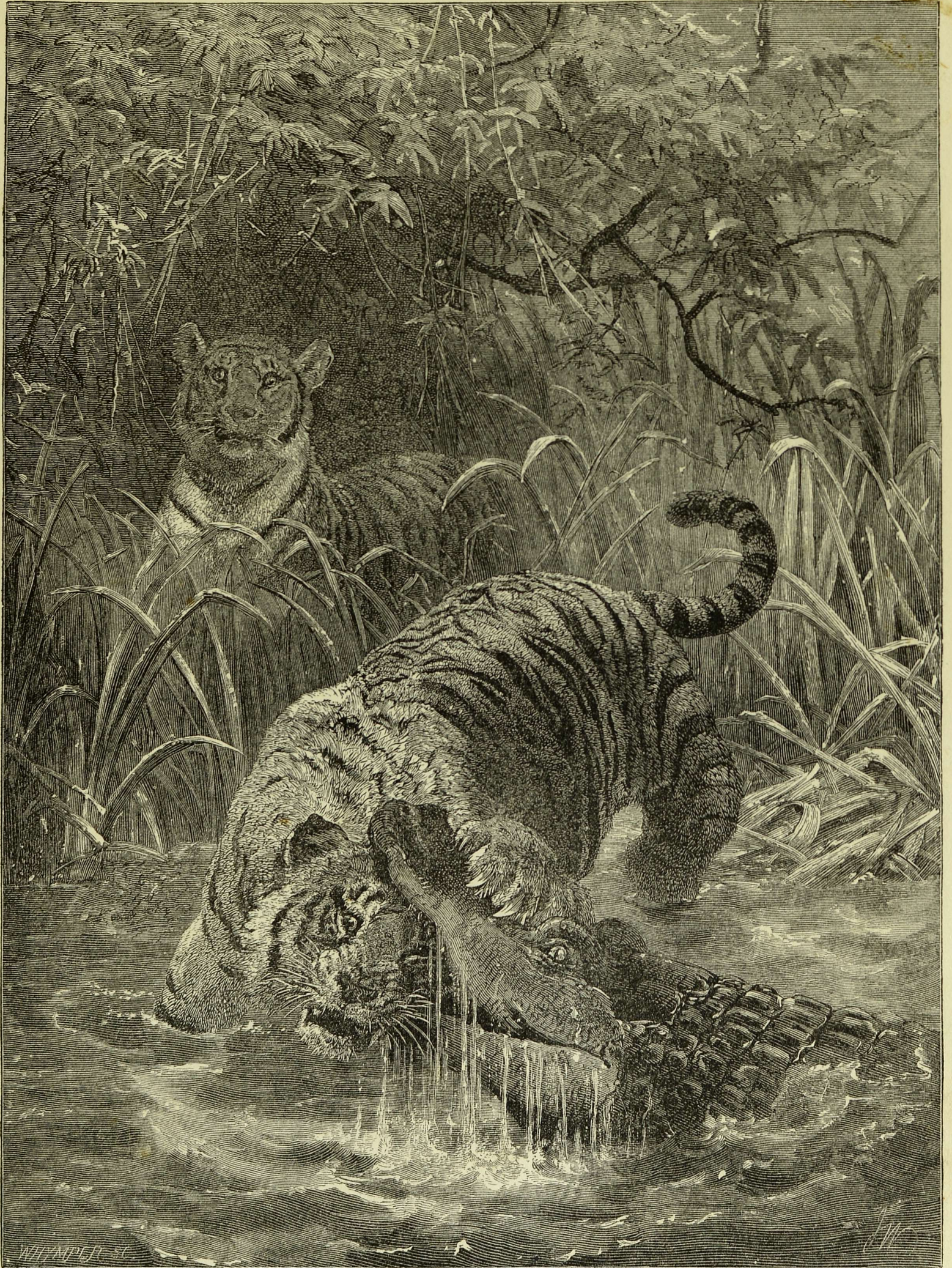
The natives of India divide tigers into three classes. The first of these they call *Hunting Tigers*, the second *Cattle-eaters*, and the third *Man-eaters*.

The *Hunting Tigers* are the young animals which are strong and active, and prey almost entirely upon the deer and other wild animals which they capture in the jungle. These tigers are rarely destroyed, as they keep down the herds of antelopes, which often do a great deal of damage in the corn-fields.

The *Cattle-eaters* are the older animals, which have lost something of their strength and activity, and prefer to prowl about the villages in the hope of pouncing upon stray cattle.

More dangerous still, however, are the *Man-eaters*; for when a tiger has once tasted human flesh he always prefers it to any other food. A man-eater is nearly always an old animal which is unable to catch his ordinary prey. He usually makes his lair by the side of a road, and then lies in wait for someone to pass.

Tigers are generally hunted with the help of elephants.



TIGER ATTACKED BY A CROCODILE

THE TIGER



A kind of wooden or basket-work carriage, called a "howdah", is fastened upon the elephant's back, and in this the hunters are seated. Sometimes the tiger is killed without much trouble, but often he fights hard for his life. With open jaws and flaming eyes, and uttering terrible roars, he dashes furiously at the elephant, which, even after the most careful training, often turns and flees before him.

The Tiger lives in many parts of Asia, but nowhere in Europe, Africa, or America. It is in India that he is found at his best.

The Elephant

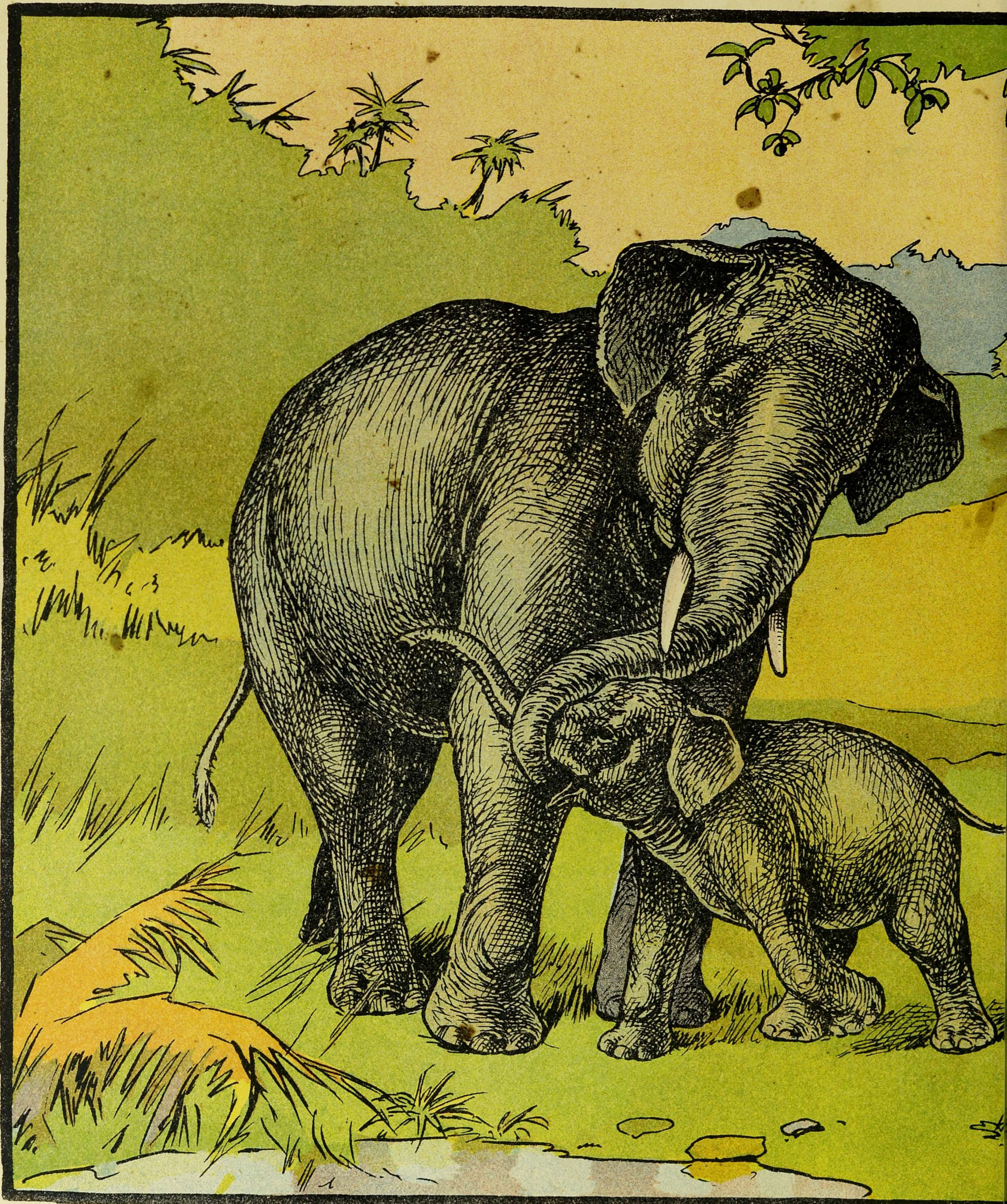
IF you have ever seen an Elephant you must have noticed his trunk. What a wonderful organ it is! So strong that it can lift a heavy man from the ground and raise him high in the air, or tear down a stout branch from a tree; and yet so delicate of touch that it can pluck a single leaf or blade of grass, or pick up a pin from the floor. With his trunk, too, the Elephant carries his food to his mouth; draws up water and squirts it down his throat when he is thirsty, or over his back and sides when he is hot. The trunk, indeed, is very much to an elephant what our arms and hands are to us.

There are two different kinds of Elephant, the African Elephant and the Indian Elephant.

It is easy to tell to which of these two kinds an Elephant belongs, for the African Elephant has larger ears and longer tusks than the Indian Elephant.

Indian Elephants are often caught and tamed, and they are so intelligent and clever that they very soon learn to perform all kinds of work. In many a town in India we may see Elephants building walls. They have a bricklayer with them, of course, who spreads the mortar. But all the bricks are arranged in their places by the Elephants, who know exactly where to lay them, and how to place them in position. Or we may see another Elephant making a road over a piece of marshy ground by laying down a row of stout logs.

But the Indian Elephant is chiefly used for riding. The riders sit in a large basket-work seat, called a "howdah",





ELEPHANT

THE ELEPHANT

which is fastened upon the Elephant's back, while the "mahout", or driver, takes his place upon the animal's neck. The mahout carries a long iron spike, with a hook at the end, and this he presses against the Elephant's head, to show in which direction he is to go.

Many wonderful stories are told of the Elephant and his ways. There is room for one here.

A little kitten, which was being chased by a dog, ran up the leg of a sleeping Elephant, and found a safe retreat upon his back. The kitten probably thought the Elephant's leg was a tree-trunk, but it soon found out its mistake, for the Elephant calmly lifted his trunk, and securing pussy, held it out to see what had disturbed him. Pussy spluttered, and scratched, but the Elephant was only amused, and quietly replaced it on his back. From that day the kitten spent most of its time in running up and down the Elephant's legs, or upon his back, playing a kind of hide-and-seek with his ears. But, alas! pussy got ill and actually died in its favourite place upon its gigantic friend. When the Elephant discovered his loss he became so wild that he had to be shot.

The Elephant is often trained to hunt the tiger; but this is not at all an easy thing to do, for he is very much afraid of that animal. Even after his trainers think he is quite able to take part in a tiger chase, it sometimes happens that when an angry tiger springs upon him with flaming eyes and a loud roar, the Elephant runs away.

In olden days there were wild Elephants in our country, and remains of them are often found in sand and gravel pits.



THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT



IBEX DEFENDING HIS FAMILY

The Himalayan Ibex

THE Himalayan Ibex belongs to the same family as the goat. Ibexes and goats, indeed, are somewhat mixed up; that is, some are called goats or Ibexes, according to taste. But there are the true European Alpine Ibex, the Himalayan Ibex, the Arabian Ibex, and the Abyssinian Ibex. The Ibex which is now before us has his home in Asia, chiefly on the northern slopes of the Himalayan Mountains.

He is a beautiful animal, swift and active, springing from rock to rock in splendid style when danger is near. The male possesses a pair of magnificent horns, and he has a beard like that of the goat.

High up on the mountains where he is found it is so cold that the snow lies on the ground even in summer. The Ibex does not live among the snow, but just below where the snow stops. As the winter approaches, the snow comes farther down the mountain, and the Ibex is forced to descend before it in order that he may be able to find plenty to eat. In the depth of winter he is even driven down to the plains. But there he is hunted and killed in large numbers, so that when summer comes back he is glad to climb up again to his native heights, where he finds safety among the crags and precipices.

The Ibex is a wary animal and can take good care of himself, but he cannot always escape from bullets. He is also attacked by prowling beasts, and though he is sometimes overcome by them he can be very brave in defending his family against them.

The Rhinoceros

THE Rhinoceros is a great, bulky animal, with short, stout, pillar-like legs; clothed in a thick, very hard and tough hide, and with either one or two stout horns upon the front part of the head.

The Rhinoceros uses his horns for various purposes. With them, for instance, he digs in the ground in search of the roots which form a very large portion of his food. He also uses them as weapons, and very formidable weapons they must be. The Indian Rhinoceros is said to kill even the elephant, by dashing between its legs and ripping open its body.

The skin of the Indian Rhinoceros is very loose, and lies in great folds upon the neck, shoulders, and hind-quarters. These folds can easily be lifted up by the hand. The skin beneath them is much softer and thinner than the rest, and flies creep under them and greatly torment the animal. In order to destroy these tiny foes the Rhinoceros wallows in the bed of a river, and so covers his whole body with a thick coating of mud.

Although the Rhinoceros is so big and heavy, and so very clumsy in appearance, he can run so fast that only a very swift horse is able to keep up with him. He is usually a very quiet animal, but when he is attacked or irritated he becomes a most formidable enemy. He seems to lose all sense of fear, and cares nothing for the wounds which he receives. So fierce and savage does he become, indeed, that an old hunter says he would rather face fifty lions than one angry Rhinoceros.



THE RHINOCEROS



THE MONKEY

Monkeys

WHAT a world the Monkey world is! Its members live almost wholly in trees, in which they are as much at home as the birds of the air; not because they have wings, for these they have not, but because they have practically *four* hands, and many of them have, in addition, tails that are as useful to their wearers as another pair of hands. Shall we say *five* hands? What a mercy it is that some of our mischievous school-boys and girls do not have five hands! No wonder the Monkey is mischievous.

In his own home—in Africa, in India, in Java, in the warmer parts of the American continent—the Monkey spends his life in the trees of almost endless forests. From branch to branch he passes, with the aid of his four wonderful hands, as easily as we walk along the street. And there he catches birds, steals eggs, and hunts for fruit and insects, which are his chief food.

How handy he must find it to be able to hang himself up by his tail, while he gathers the fruit off a bough which he could not otherwise reach, or digs out some insects from a hole in the bark!

The tricks which Monkeys play are most amusing, and when these bright little creatures imitate man they are always very funny. There is room for only one among the many stories of them. A great traveller in Africa used to go to a stream to brush his teeth. The Monkeys watched him, and ere long were to be seen at the water's edge, brushing away at their mouths with bits of stick as though their lives depended upon their having teeth of pearly whiteness.

The Antelope

THERE are a great many different kinds of Antelope. Some of them might easily be mistaken for wild cattle, others are more like goats or sheep, and others again look as if they were close relations of the deer. Some have short horns, others long ones. Some have their horns twisted like cork-screws, others have them curved or bent in various ways.

The common Antelope is a graceful little creature with very beautiful horns. India is his home. He roams about in large herds, and likes best to live in woods where the trees do not grow too closely together.

He has many enemies, and so has become very shy and watchful. When a herd is feeding or resting several of them are placed at some distance from the main body to keep guard. And then, if one of them gives warning of approaching danger, the whole herd trots off to a safer place.

The Antelope is very light and active. He could jump over the head of a very tall man with ease, and if he is alarmed he will gallop away faster than the fastest of dogs. This makes it very difficult to hunt him; but huntsmen train a bird called the falcon to assist them. As the falcon flies very quickly it soon overtakes the Antelope, and swooping down at his head attacks him with beak and claws. In this way the Antelope is delayed until the dogs surround him.

When a young Antelope is born it is at first very helpless, and cannot even stand for several days. So its mother remains with it in a safe place, until it is strong enough to run about with the rest and take care of itself, and then she leads it to the herd.



A HERD OF ANTELOPES

The Zebra

ONE of the most beautiful creatures in the world is the Zebra. He is like a graceful little white pony wonderfully marked almost all over the body with black stripes.

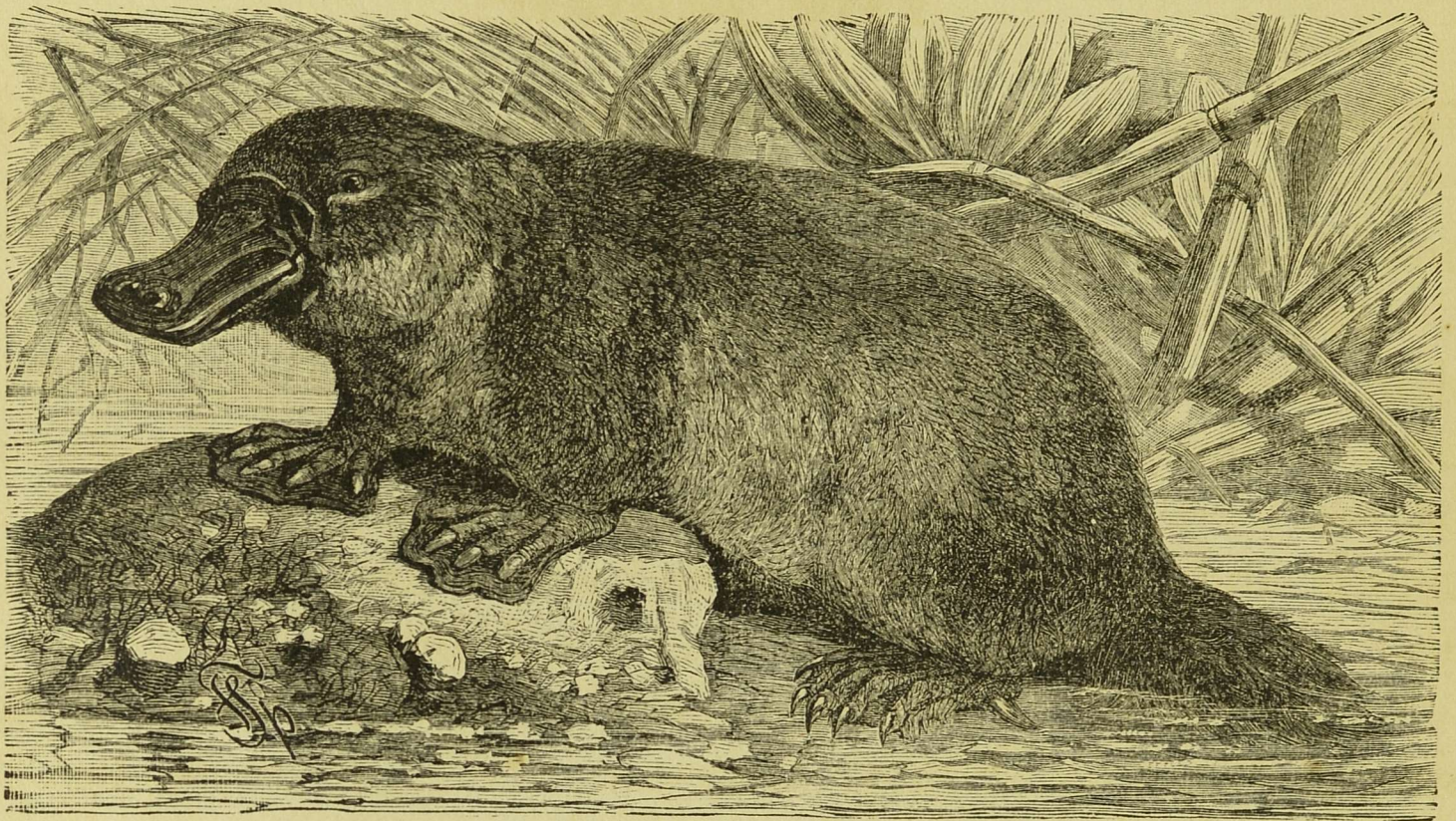
Several species of the Zebra are found in different parts of South Africa. He is a very shy animal, and lives in small herds far from the abode of man. These herds roam and graze among the hills, and when startled scamper off to a place of safety amid the rocks. They seem to be able to scent danger a long way off, for it is very difficult to get near a herd. Those who have studied the habits of the Zebra say that one of the number is always posted at some point where it can see the country on all sides and so give warning in plenty of time.

If he were properly trained, the Zebra, with his beautiful colouring and his graceful form, would make the finest pony in the world. Nothing can surpass his beauty in his native wilds. He is swift, strong, and sure-footed, but he is so shy and full of spirit that no one has been able to tame him enough to make him useful.

Many years ago the Zebra roamed over the plains and hills of South Africa in very large numbers, but since white men conquered that country he has been much hunted for the sake of his beautiful skin. He is able to guard himself well against other enemies, for when a herd is attacked by a wild beast it forms into a circle, with heads in the centre, and presents a dangerous array of kicking heels to the enemy. But even this brave defence is of little avail against the weapons of the white man.



THE ZEBRA



The Duck-bill

THE DUCK-BILL is a very strange animal. He is half a beast and half a bird. For though he has four legs and a warm coat of fur, his snout is hard and shaped like the bill of a duck, and his little ones are hatched from eggs. His home is in the rivers of Tasmania and the south of Australia. He is a splendid swimmer and diver, for he has webbed feet like the duck, and his body is so shaped that he can go through the water easily and quickly. Like the duck, also, he feeds upon the worms and other little creatures which he finds in the mud at the bottom of the water. The entrance to his nest is under water, but it leads to a cosy little chamber hollowed out in the bank, which the river cannot reach. There he sleeps during the day, and comes out to work and play when darkness falls.

The Jaguar

THE Jaguar is to the New World what the lion and tiger and leopard are to the Old. He is the largest and fiercest of the CAT tribe in America.

He is not much less in size than the tiger, and is larger than the leopard; but although he is a very near relative both of these and of the lion, he nevertheless has qualities of his own. He differs from them, for instance, in the colour and markings of his fur, which are very beautiful, and in other ways, especially in his habits.

The Jaguar lives in the reedy or wooded tracts by the side of the large South American rivers, where he lies in wait for his victims, which may be horses or oxen or sheep, wild or tame, he does not care. He usually selects the last in a passing herd, and, springing upon its back, he suddenly twists and breaks his victim's neck, which at once puts an end to all suffering.

Sometimes, also, he eats fish, which he catches in the river, fishing, like the cat, with his paw. It is said that he will even attack the alligator, a large and very fierce animal which lives in the rivers of his country. On dry land the Jaguar may be victorious, for the alligator is very clumsy when he comes out on the bank; but in the water the alligator is very active, and after a time will probably pull the Jaguar into mid-stream and hold him under water until he is drowned.

Another animal with which the Jaguar very often has to fight is the peccary, a hog of very small size, but one of the fiercest of its tribe. The Jaguar is very fond of

THE JAGUAR

peccary. As, however, this little animal is usually to be found in large herds, and is quite fearless in attacking any enemy, even man himself, and inflicting terrible wounds with its short sharp tusks, the peccary is not prey that can be easily taken. The Jaguar, however, falls back upon his skill as a climber, seizes a straggler from the herd, and bounds into a tree. The peccaries will surround the tree and keep the Jaguar a close prisoner for hours; but he sits patiently out of their reach and waits until they are driven by hunger to disperse.

The advantage is not always, however, with the Jaguar. In one case, after seizing a peccary in this way, a Jaguar chose a tree that was too low, and his savage little enemies, being able to reach him, attacked him so fiercely that they soon tore him to pieces with their tusks.

The Jaguar prefers to be near water, and particularly the large rivers or swamps, for he is a very clever swimmer. He is also so clever a climber that in some places, where the rivers often overflow their banks and flood the country for hundreds of miles, he will take altogether to a life in the trees. This, of course, he can only do if the trees grow so close together that he can pass easily from one to another.

Like the house cat, the Jaguar is well known for the noise he makes at night. He sets up a terrific cry of yu-yu-yu! which is about as alarming as the lion's roar. In another way also he is very like our pussy, for he has the habit of "sharpening his claws" upon trees, just as we have seen our cat do on the leg of a table.



A JAGUAR HUNTING FOR PREY

The Otter

THE OTTER makes his home beside rivers and streams, and spends a great part of his time in the water. This he does because the food he likes best is fish.

Now the fish dart about so quickly from point to point in the water, that the Otter must be very smart if he wishes to catch them. And indeed he is one of the cleverest of all swimming and diving animals.

When he has caught a fish he carries it to the bank, and there sits down to eat it. But he is a very dainty animal, and only eats the head and upper part of the body. In this wasteful way he destroys a great many fish, and fishermen therefore try when they can to kill him. But the Otter is so wise that he seldom allows himself to be taken in a trap, and his scent and hearing are so keen that he knows in good time when an enemy is approaching, and is thus able to hide before he is seen.

If he is caught when young, however, he can be easily tamed. He then becomes much attached to his master, following him like a dog, and can even be trained to catch fish without damaging them.

Away in the Far North a kind of Otter is found that does not live in rivers, but in the sea. This Sea-otter is much larger than the common otter, and instead of fish he prefers crabs and other such creatures for his dinner. The mother Sea-otter takes great care of her little one, and plays with it very prettily. If it should die, she pines away with grief. Unfortunately the Sea-otter is killed in large numbers for the sake of his beautiful fur.



SEA-OTTERS AT PLAY

The Orang-Utan

THE "Man of the Woods" is the meaning of the name Orang-Utan. This name was given to the animal because at one time it was thought that he was a wild man, who lived among the trees instead of building a house for himself. But afterwards, when travellers and hunters went into the country where he is found, they discovered that he is really only an ape. And now we know that he is not even as like man as another ape which is called the chimpanzee.

The Orang-Utan lives only in the densely-wooded parts of the islands of Borneo and Sumatra, and there he spends his days high up among the trees.

He grows to the height of four feet four inches, and when he stands up straight he can touch the ground with his hands. But long and powerful arms are very useful to him, for they enable him to move about from branch to branch and from tree to tree with great ease. It is said that he can travel through the forest in this way as fast as a man can run across a level field.

The Orang-Utan lives in family parties, that is to say, a mother and father with three or four younger ones. He builds a kind of house among the trees, probably by plaiting some branches together, and forming a soft bed upon them with dry leaves or grass. His food is chiefly fruit and vegetables.

The Orang-Utan is a shy animal. He will rather avoid than attack man; but if he is hunted and sorely pressed, he can defend himself fiercely and bravely.



THE ORANG-UTAN



THE CHAMOIS

The Chamois

THE Chamois is a wonderfully sure-footed little animal. He can travel with amazing speed along rocky ledges which no feet but his own may tread, and can leap from crag to crag, or descend a precipitous cliff, with the most perfect agility and ease.

In summer time, the Chamois, which cannot endure great heat, climbs to the upper heights of his mountain home, where the air is fresh and cool. But when autumn begins to give place to winter, he finds that his supply of food is running short, and so he comes down again to lower parts where he can find plenty to eat.

The Chamois feeds upon many of the low shrubs and herbs which grow in mountainous regions. He is very fond, too, of the buds of trees, more particularly those of pines, firs, and juniper.

Few animals are more wary and cautious than the Chamois. His senses are wonderfully keen, and he can detect a man both by sight and by scent at a very great distance. As soon as he sees danger he bounds away from rock to rock until he reaches a place where the cleverest hunter cannot follow him. But even then he does not always escape from the deadly rifle-bullet. The Chamois has other enemies, however, besides man—enemies which can scale the mountain heights better than he. These are the eagles and other birds of prey. But he bravely defends himself and his young against them by the use of his peculiar horns, which go straight up from the head and then suddenly turn backward into a hook.

The Giraffe

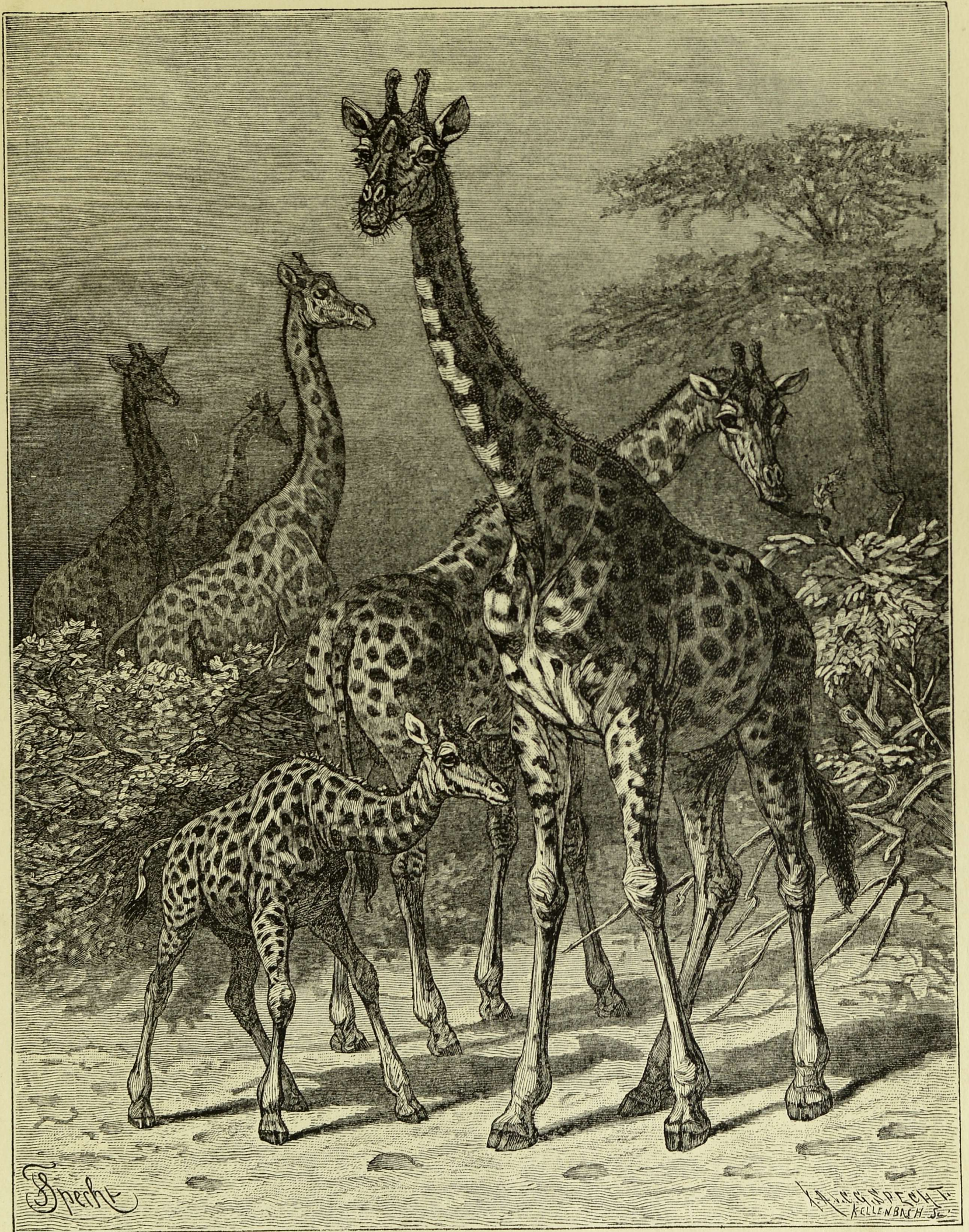
THE Giraffe is one of the strangest animals in the world. Only two kinds of Giraffe are found alive at the present time, one with three horns and the other with five. But other species of this animal lived in past ages.

The Giraffe will eat nothing but vegetable food, and he is specially fond of the leaves of trees. Occasionally he grazes upon grass; but in order to do this he has to stretch apart his very long legs, and bend down his neck between them, which must be very tiring. This also is what he has to do every time he wishes to drink.

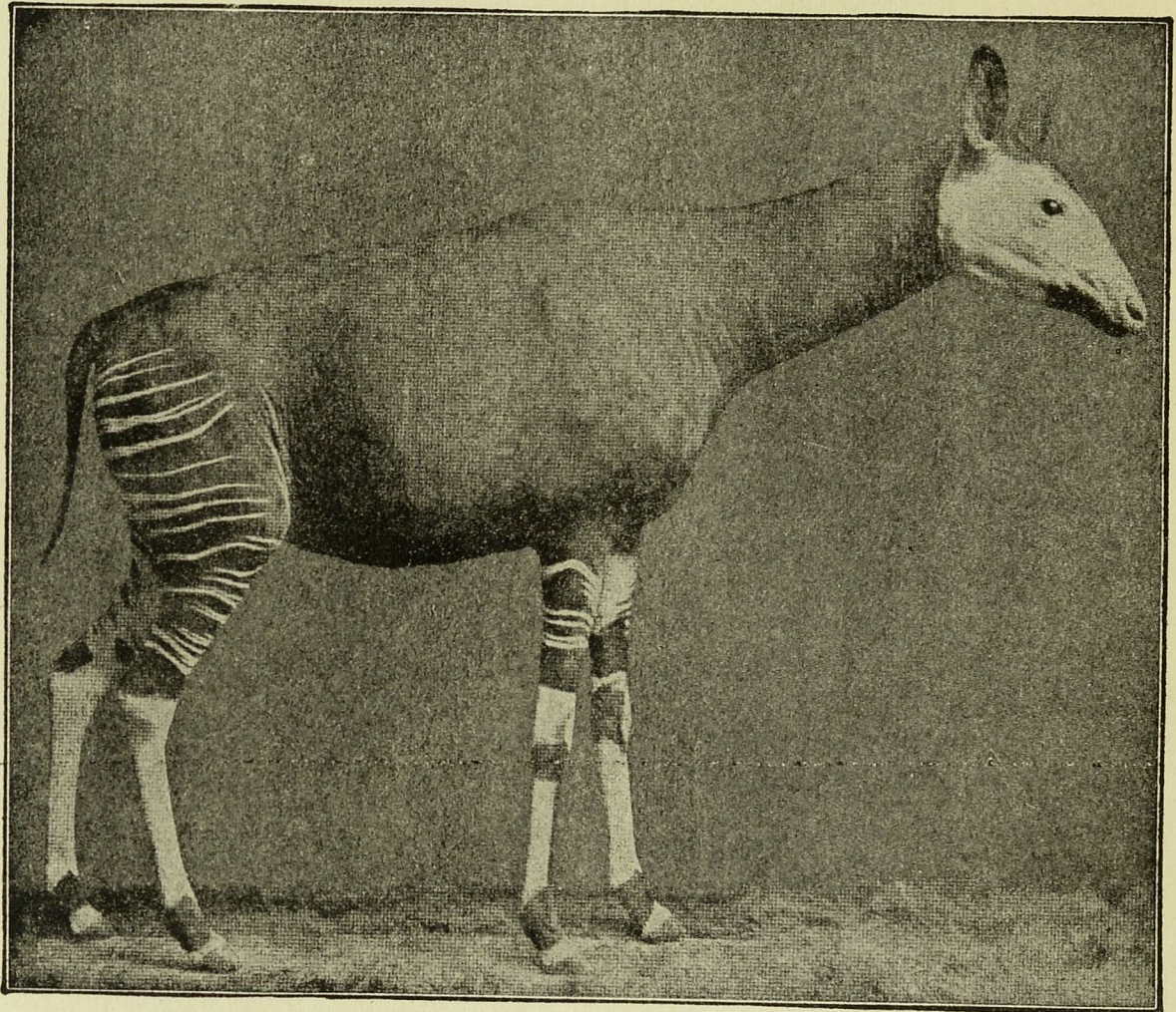
His lanky legs and equally long neck show that he is intended to browse upon the foliage of trees, for which purpose he is provided with a long, flexible, and very useful tongue, which picks off the leaves daintily and one at a time. While he is feeding, too, his great height and sharp eyes enable him to see danger a long way off.

The Giraffe is by far the tallest of all living creatures, for he grows to a height of over eighteen feet, or more than that of three tall men one above the other. He is a magnificent animal, and it is a pity that the price of his beautiful skin should tempt men to hunt him out of the world.

The Giraffe is a very timid creature, and if he is alarmed he always tries to find safety in flight. But when he is brought to bay he will fight bravely, kicking fiercely with his powerful forelegs, and often disabling his enemy. Even the lion is afraid to attack the Giraffe openly, and prefers to creep up silently behind him, spring upon his flanks, and bear him to the ground.



THE GIRAFFE



The Okapi

THE Okapi lives in the Great Forest of Central Africa, which is so large and so dense that it is only a few years since this strange animal was first discovered. He is a cousin of the giraffe, though at first sight he does not look at all like that animal. The long neck is most useful to the giraffe, who lives in open country, but it would be very dangerous to the Okapi, for it would catch among the close branches of his forest home. So nature has provided the Okapi with a neck just long enough to enable him to feed upon the leaves and small twigs of the lower branches. His coat, too, is not spotted like the giraffe's. It is beautifully coloured with brown, red, and black, while the legs are marked with stripes like those of the zebra.

The Polar Bear

IT seems strange that any animal can live far away in the Arctic regions, where the ice and snow sometimes do not melt all the year round. But the Polar Bear is specially formed for such a life, and has such a warm coat of thick close fur that he never feels the cold. His coat is white like the snow in which he lives.

There is another way, too, in which the Polar Bear is suited to the life he has to lead. He is often obliged to travel over the ice, especially when he wants to catch one of the seals which are to be found resting upon it. Any other bear would be sure to slide about on the slippery surface, and would so alarm its intended victim. But the Polar Bear, unlike other bears, has the soles of his feet closely covered with stout bristles, so that he can always obtain a firm footing even upon the ice.

The feet of the Polar Bear, besides being very long and heavy, are furnished with a set of huge claws, with which he seizes and destroys his prey. He is a capital swimmer, and can even overtake and catch fish. Sometimes, too, when he sees a seal sleeping calmly at the edge of the ice, he swims round quietly till he is close to it, and then springs upon it suddenly. The seal wakens up in alarm, and tries to dive into the sea. But it is too late, for the Bear has caught it, and kills it with a blow on the head from his powerful paw.

The Polar Bear is not nearly so brave an animal as is often thought; for if he is attacked he will nearly always run away. If he is brought to bay, however, he will fight most fiercely, and is then a very dangerous enemy.



THE POLAR B



R AT HOME

The Crocodile

THE Crocodile is a very large and fierce animal. Sometimes he grows to the great length of twenty-five feet; and he does not hesitate to attack a man who may venture too near the water where he lies in hiding. He is not found in this country, nor, indeed, in any other part of Europe. But in many of the rivers and lakes of Asia and Africa he is very common.

The Crocodile has an odd way of killing his prey. Let us suppose that a deer, for example, has come down to the river-side to drink. The animal does not notice its enemy; for the Crocodile, when lying quite still in the water, looks like a floating log.

But the Crocodile is on the alert; and as soon as he catches sight of the deer, he dives quietly under water, and swims cautiously up to the place where the animal is drinking. Then with a sweep of his mighty tail he knocks the poor creature into the water, and, seizing it, holds it underneath the surface until it is drowned.

The jaws of the Crocodile are so strong, that when he gets hold of a victim it has little chance of escape. Each jaw is furnished with a long row of sharp teeth. These teeth fall out when their points are worn away, and others grow in their place.

But though the jaws of the Crocodile are so hideous, there is a little bird which is not afraid to enter his mouth. It seems to do so in search of food, and it probably picks up little creatures that have been irritating the great animal, for he never seeks to interfere with his little visitor.



THE CROCODILE AND HIS LITTLE VISITOR

The Ant-eater

THE Ant-eater is an awkward-looking animal, with a very large bushy tail, and a narrow head with a long, pointed snout and a small mouth. On his fore-feet he has great claws, which seem to be very much in his way, but which are really very useful to him.

As we might guess from his name, the Ant-eater lives upon ants. How he manages to catch these lively little insects is at first difficult to understand. But if we could watch him at work, we should see that he has a very long tongue, like a whip, which he thrusts out of his small mouth, and quickly draws back again. This tongue is covered with sticky matter, so that each time it is put out it draws back with it a supply of ants. The thick skin with which nature has provided the Ant-eater protects him well against the attacks of the ants.

In South America, where he lives, ants are very plentiful, and they build as their homes huge heaps of mud often twice as high as a man. To break into these, therefore, the Ant-eater uses his claws. In this way he gets his ants crowded together, and does not depend upon stray ones to be found upon the ground.

When the Ant-eater is attacked his claws prove very formidable weapons of defence. One has been known to rip open a jaguar with a stroke of his claws.

The Ant-eater sleeps during the day and moves about at night. He makes no den or nest into which he may retire, but when he wishes to rest he covers his body with his large bushy tail.



THE ANT-EATER

The Beaver

THE Beaver is a water animal, as we might easily guess from his webbed hind-feet, which he uses as paddles, and his broad, flat, scaly tail, which serves him as a rudder. It is important, therefore, that he should always have plenty of water in which to swim and dive. Now the great heat of summer makes the streams and rivers very shallow. The Beaver knows this, and in order to meet the difficulty he does a very wonderful thing.

Nature has given him very sharp and strong teeth, and with these he cuts down a great many trees. This he does by gnawing a deep groove in the trunk, till the weight of the tree causes it to snap off.

When a tree has fallen he cuts it in the same way into short logs. Having done this, he carefully strips off the bark, and stores it away to serve as food during the winter. Then he drags the logs to the water, and begins to build a wall with them across the stream.

He lays the first logs down at the bottom of the stream in regular order, and piles mud and stones on them to prevent them from floating. Then he places others on the top of these, and so on until the wall rises above the surface, and keeps the water from flowing away.

The Beaver also builds a cosy house for himself near this pond. He lays a number of logs and branches carefully in position, fastens them in their places by means of stones, and fills the joinings with smaller sticks and earth. Then he plasters the whole over with a thick coating of mud. Round the house he digs a deep ditch to keep off enemies.



THE BEAVER

The Civet

IN shape and colour this animal is very like our house cat. His head, however, is pointed like that of the fox, and the hair on his neck and his back grows into a kind of mane.

Like pussy, also, he can see better at night than during the day, and so he sleeps while the sun shines, and roams about when darkness comes on. It is very useful for him to be able to see in the dark, for he preys upon birds, who are more difficult to catch when they are awake and ready to fly away than when they are asleep.

But even in the daytime the Civet is always on the alert. He is as easily wakened as a watch-dog, and he jumps up at once if he hears a bird, or a rat, or a mouse passing near him. Then he crawls quickly and noiselessly through the grass and bushes, and pounces upon it before it knows of its danger.

One kind of Civet is very fond of hens and chickens, and as he is able to slip through very narrow openings, he often gets into a poultry-yard and does a great deal of damage. He does not simply catch one fowl and carry it off, but runs about wildly and kills as many as he can get hold of. In some countries, however, he is tamed, and taught, like a cat, to kill rats and mice and leave the poultry alone.

The Civet has a pouch in which is found a yellow substance like butter. In Eastern countries he is kept for the sake of this substance. For though it has a very strong and unpleasant smell when it is first taken out of the pouch, it can be made into a pleasant scent by mixing it with oil and other substances.



CIVETS FIGHTING OVER A BIRD

The Sloth

THIS creature lives among the branches of trees, from which he hangs by means of his enormous claws. These claws are curved, so that they can be hooked over a bough, and he can hang in this way all day and all night without being tired.

Indeed, the Sloth never lies down like other animals, even when sleeping, but remains still hanging from a bough, with all his feet placed close together.

Upon level ground, he travels in a very awkward and ungainly manner. He is so unused to walking in this way that he can only drag himself along a few inches at a time. It was because of this slow movement that the animal was named the "sloth".

Amid his natural surroundings, however, he is very far from being "slothful". Hanging beneath the branches by his great curved claws, he moves along quite easily, and with some speed. He always prefers to travel when the wind is high, for then the branches are blown together, so that he can pass from tree to tree without difficulty.

The Sloth does not drink from pools and streams as other animals do. The dew falls very heavily in the South American forests in which he lives, and he can therefore get as much water as he needs from the leaves of the trees.

When the young of the Sloth are born, they are not strong enough to travel along beneath the branches and find food for themselves. For several weeks, therefore, they cling firmly to the body of their mother, and are carried about by her wherever she goes.



SLOTHS TRAVELLING AMONG THE TREES



The Polecat

THE Polecat makes his home in old walls and under piles of wood or stones. He prefers to be near a farmyard, for a good hen is his favourite food. He hides himself carefully during the day, and comes out to rob the hen-roosts at night. And if these are not well protected he will do a great deal of damage. For this reason farmers kill him whenever they can, and sometimes they do so in a very strange way. A man with a gun hides near the Polecat's nest, and another stands a little way off and begins to file a saw. This, of course, makes a very unpleasant sound, and the Polecat dislikes it so much that he dashes out to attack the man, and is shot before he reaches him. But the Polecat is also very useful to farmers, for he kills many mice, rats, and field-mice, all of which do a great deal of harm. He is also fond of frogs, lizards, and even snakes.

The Wolf

JUST as the lion is a kind of cat, so the Wolf is a kind of dog. If, for example, you could examine the legs of a Wolf, you would find that they are exactly like those of a dog: slender, and yet very strong, with just the same kind of stout but blunt claws.

For a Wolf does not use his claws as a lion does, in tearing down his prey. He kills his victims by springing up at them as they are running along, and snapping over and over again at their throats, so as to tear their flesh, and weaken them by loss of blood.

His claws, therefore, are not sharp, like those of the cat, nor are they drawn back into the toes while not in use. The consequence is, that as fast as they grow they are worn away by rubbing against the ground.

The Wolf as a rule is not a brave animal, and will not attack even unarmed men unless he is very hungry. But in the winter, when food is scarce, he becomes very savage and desperate, and loses all sense of fear. Then he hunts in large packs, and is a great danger to travellers, for though they may kill many wolves of a pack, the others press on and often overcome them by force of numbers.

Like most members of the dog tribe the wolf has an extremely keen sense of smell, and this enables him to track his prey over vast distances. If, however, he finds the body of some animal that has already been killed, he is quite content, and will not take the trouble to hunt for prey.

How timid the Wolf is when not pressed by hunger is shown by the simple manner in which hunters prevent

THE WOLF

him from stealing their game. All they have to do is to plant a short stick in the ground, beside the body of the dead animal, and to tie a narrow strip of calico or linen to the top. This flutters about in the wind, and so frightens the Wolf that he will not even approach it.

When a party of travellers have been pursued by a pack of wolves, they have sometimes saved their lives by throwing out various objects, such as coats and cloaks, from their carriage. As each was thrown out, the wolves stopped for a time to examine it; and in this way they were kept at a distance until a village was reached.

It has been found, too, that in Norway the wolves are so much afraid of the telegraph wires, that they have never been known to pass underneath them.

While the Wolf is still young he is easily tamed, and will soon learn to follow his master like a dog. It is said that in such a case he loses all desire for a wild life, and will never even try to rejoin his companions, even if he should be permitted to wander about as he pleases. But he can never be taught that he must not go into the poultry-yard and kill the chickens; and therefore he is not very often caught and kept as a pet.

The Wolf was at one time an inhabitant of our peaceful British Isles. Many a law was made for the purpose of reducing him in numbers, or of killing him off altogether. Yet in spite of these laws he was still found in quite recent times. In England he probably became extinct in the reign of Henry VII, but he existed in Scotland till the middle of the eighteenth century, and in Ireland even later.



WOLVES FOLLOWING A TRAIL

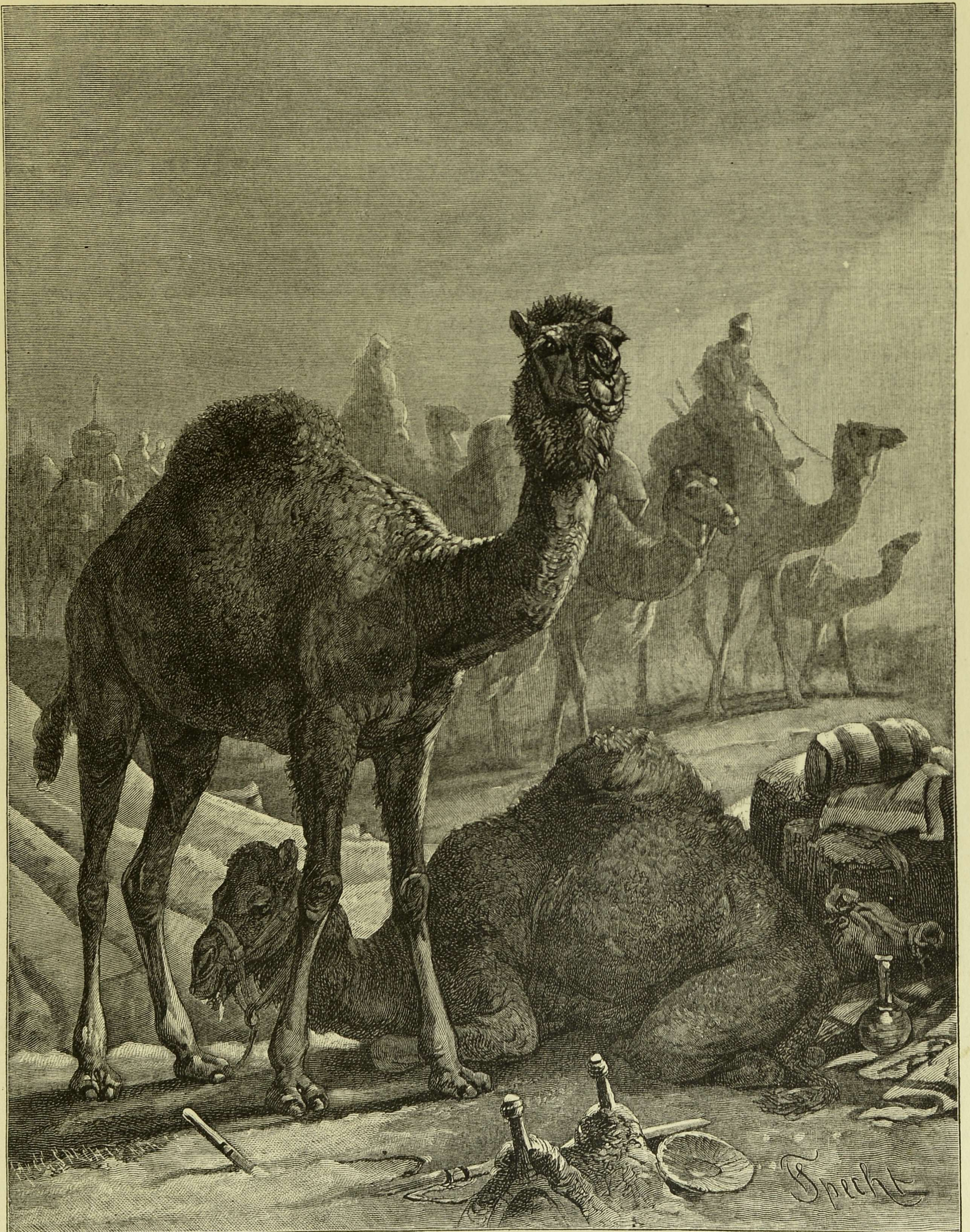
The Camel

IN the East, where long journeys have to be made through sandy deserts in which food and water are scarce, the Camel takes the place which the horse naturally occupies in this country. For he has large, broad feet, with cushion-like pads beneath them, which do not sink into the sand like the hoofs of a horse, and so he is able to walk along as easily as if he were upon firm ground. He cannot run or gallop as fast as a horse, it is true; but if necessary he can travel across the hot desert nearly all day long for several weeks at a time.

He does this, too, with scarcely any food, for he can live for many days very largely upon his own hump. This may seem strange, but the hump of the Camel consists almost wholly of fat, and although it may be large and firm at the beginning of a desert journey, it will have almost disappeared at the end. But it is renewed again when the Camel is able to get plenty of food.

The Camel can also go for several days without water. When he drinks, he swallows much more water than he requires at the time. All that he does not need passes into little cells in his stomach, where it is tightly fastened up. Each of these cells can be opened or closed as he wishes, so that he is able to travel for a long time without requiring to drink.

The Camel is so very tall that he cannot be loaded as we load a horse. Every morning, therefore, when he is travelling, he has to kneel while his burden is being fastened upon his back, and every night he has to kneel again, in order that it may be taken off.



CAMELS IN THE DESERT

The Walrus

THE Walrus makes his home away in the Far North, where snow and ice are to be found all the year round. He lives partly in the sea and partly on land or ice, but much prefers to be in the water, for he is a splendid swimmer and diver. His body is shaped so that it will pass through the water easily, and instead of legs he has short, powerful flippers or paddles, which enable him to swim very fast. He is protected against the cold by a warm coat of fur which is waterproof like the feathers of a duck, and by a thick layer of blubber or oily fat.

The Walrus has two great tusks sticking out from the upper jaw. They are very useful to him, for with them he digs up from the bottom of the sea the shell-fish upon which he feeds.

To the people who live in these cold lands the walrus is a necessity of life. There is no part of the animal's body which they do not utilize for some purpose. Of the hide, for example, they make the boats in which they go to fish when the sea is not frozen over. Of the sinews and muscles, after drying and splitting them, they make nets and fishing-lines. Fish-hooks, arrow-heads, and harpoon-heads they cut out of the tusks. The oil which they press from the blubber supplies their lamps, upon which they depend for light during a great part of the year, for in winter in these Northern lands the sun never rises. The fur serves for clothing; while the flippers can be made into warm and comfortable boots, and the skin which lines the body into an excellent waterproof cloak.



THE WALRUS



THE RED DEER

The Red Deer

THE first thing we notice when we look at a deer is that his horns have several little branches or antlers. Then, when we examine them more closely, we find that they are not horn at all, but hard, solid bone. The strangest thing about these horns, however, is that every year they drop off and new ones grow in their place. Each year the horns are larger and stronger and usually have more branches than before. By examining the horns, therefore, it is often easy to tell the age of a deer. In his second year, for instance, the horns are plain, in his third year they have a single branch each, in his fourth they have two branches each, and so on. But after he is seven years old the number does not always increase.

The Red Deer is a native of our own country, and when there were great forests in the land he roamed through them in large herds. But now he is only found in some parts of the country.

In olden days the stag or male Red Deer was hunted with dogs, the hunters following on horseback. As he is a very strong and swift animal, and a powerful swimmer, he was not easily killed in this way. When he found that the dogs were overtaking him, he would stand at bay, with his back to a tree or a rock, or wade into a lake or river, and defend himself bravely with his horns. Sometimes the hunt would last all day, and even then the stag often escaped.

The hind, or female deer, does not have horns. She is a very timid creature, but she takes great care of her little one, and defends it bravely against enemies.

Lemurs

THE Lemurs live among the trees, and nearly all of them have four hands like the monkeys. But in all other ways they resemble more the four-legged beasts.

One of the most interesting of the Lemurs is the little creature known as the Spectre Tarsier. This animal is so named because of his strange ghost-like appearance, especially when he is hunting at night. For then his eyes, which are very large, shine so brightly that as he watches for prey his head looks like a lantern which is being quickly turned in all directions. The reason for this is that in order that he may be able to see in the dark his eyes are so made as to catch every ray of light even on the darkest night. For it is never quite dark; there is always some light, though we may not see it. Pussy's eyes are made in the same way, and many of us, no doubt, have been startled when for the first time we saw her eyes gleaming in a dark room.

Besides enabling him to see his prey clearly, the Tarsier's eyes by their gleaming will bring the insects near him, for, as we all know, insects are attracted by a light. But he does not always wait till they come close enough for him to catch them. He is a very clever jumper, and if he sees a tempting mouthful flitting about just beyond his reach he takes a sudden spring, catches his victim in his hands while he is still in the air, and alights safely again on another branch.

The long tail of the Spectre Tarsier is very useful to him. When he is leaping it acts as a rudder, so that if the insect changes its position after he has made his spring he can steer himself in its direction, and then guide himself



SPECTRE TARSIERS CATCHING INSECTS.

LEMURS

towards a safe landing-place. It also serves him as a support when he is sitting upon his hind-legs.

Another very strange member of the Lemur family is the Flying Lemur, or flying-cat as it is sometimes called. This animal does not really fly. Just as water animals have webbed feet to enable them to swim, so the Flying Lemur has a large web to help him in springing from tree to tree. This



The Flying Lemur

web stretches from his neck to his fore-feet, from his fore-feet to his hind-feet, and from his hind-feet to his tail. When he springs, therefore, it is spread out and, catching the air like the wings of a bird, holds him up till he reaches another branch. In this way he is able to leap great distances.

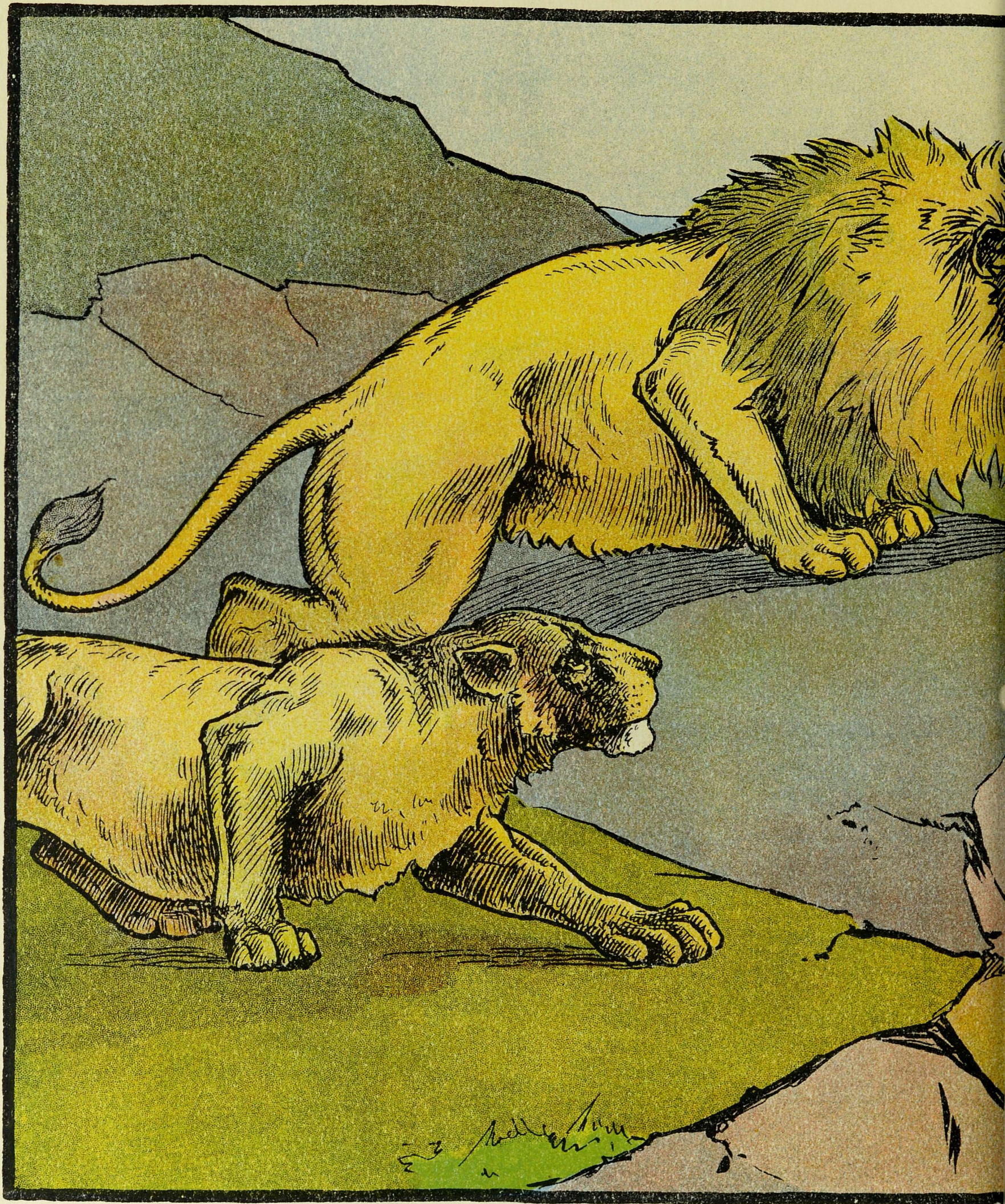
This animal sleeps in a very remarkable way. He does not lie down like most other animals, but, wrapping himself in his web, he hangs to a branch with his head dangling down.

The Lion

WHETHER the animals of old "chose the Lion for their king", as Æsop tells us, or not, he is the "King of Beasts" for many reasons. He is the most nobly formed animal among all the four-legged beasts. His head, which he carries as though he knows that he is a monarch, is always grand and dignified. The male lion has, too, a magnificent mane, which adds greatly to his noble appearance. He is very strong, as a king should be, for though by no means so large as some of the animals over whom he reigns, by his great strength and agility he is their master. Elephants, bisons, horses, deer, goats, all flee before him, the strongest as well as the fleetest.

That the Lion is quite aware of his all-conquering power seems to be evident in his habit, when, in the gloaming, he arouses himself in his den from his day's repose. For then he sallies forth in his calm and proud kingly manner; and because he has not a herald, he heralds himself—not with the blare of a trumpet, but with a roar that can be heard a mile or two away, and has been described as very like thunder.

After a time he begins to feel hungry, and if no animal crosses his path he craftily hides behind a bush, or a bank near a stream, and waits patiently. Then, when an antelope or some such animal passes near him, he springs upon it suddenly before it is aware of its danger. Or if it is so far from him that he cannot reach it at a bound, he stalks it. Crouching low, so that the antelope will not see him, he creeps towards it slowly and carefully till he is quite close to it, and then he makes his spring.



A LION STALKING



AN ANTELOPE

THE LION

A Lion is a big cat, and a cat may be said to be a little Lion; for these two animals are very like each other in many ways. They both belong to a great family of flesh-eating animals which is known as the CAT kind. Of this family the Lion is at the top, and the house cat at the bottom, and between them come the tiger, the leopard, the lynx, and many others. They all, like the cat, see well at night. All have talons or claws, which they can shield within their toes; all have their feet padded, so that their footfalls are not heard. All have sharp and strong teeth, and jaws that open very wide, and are made very powerful by strong muscles. And all, even down to our pussy, have roughened tongues.

All these cat-like animals are noted for their wonderful agility, especially when they are excited; and some climb trees as easily as our pussy does. But none is so sturdy and bold as the Lion.

Even the king of beasts is retreating and dying out before the advance of civilization. He is becoming scarce in some parts of Africa, which is now his chief home, in some districts of India, and other countries of Asia, where he was once very common. He has wholly disappeared from Asia Minor; from Assyria, where the ancient Babylonish and other kings used to hunt him; and from Palestine, where, as we know, David slew "a lion and a bear". Even Europe used to possess its Lions—they were well-known in ancient Greece and other parts of the continent. And the Lion, the great roaring Lion, used once upon a time to live in England. But that was a very long time ago.



LION AND LIONESS

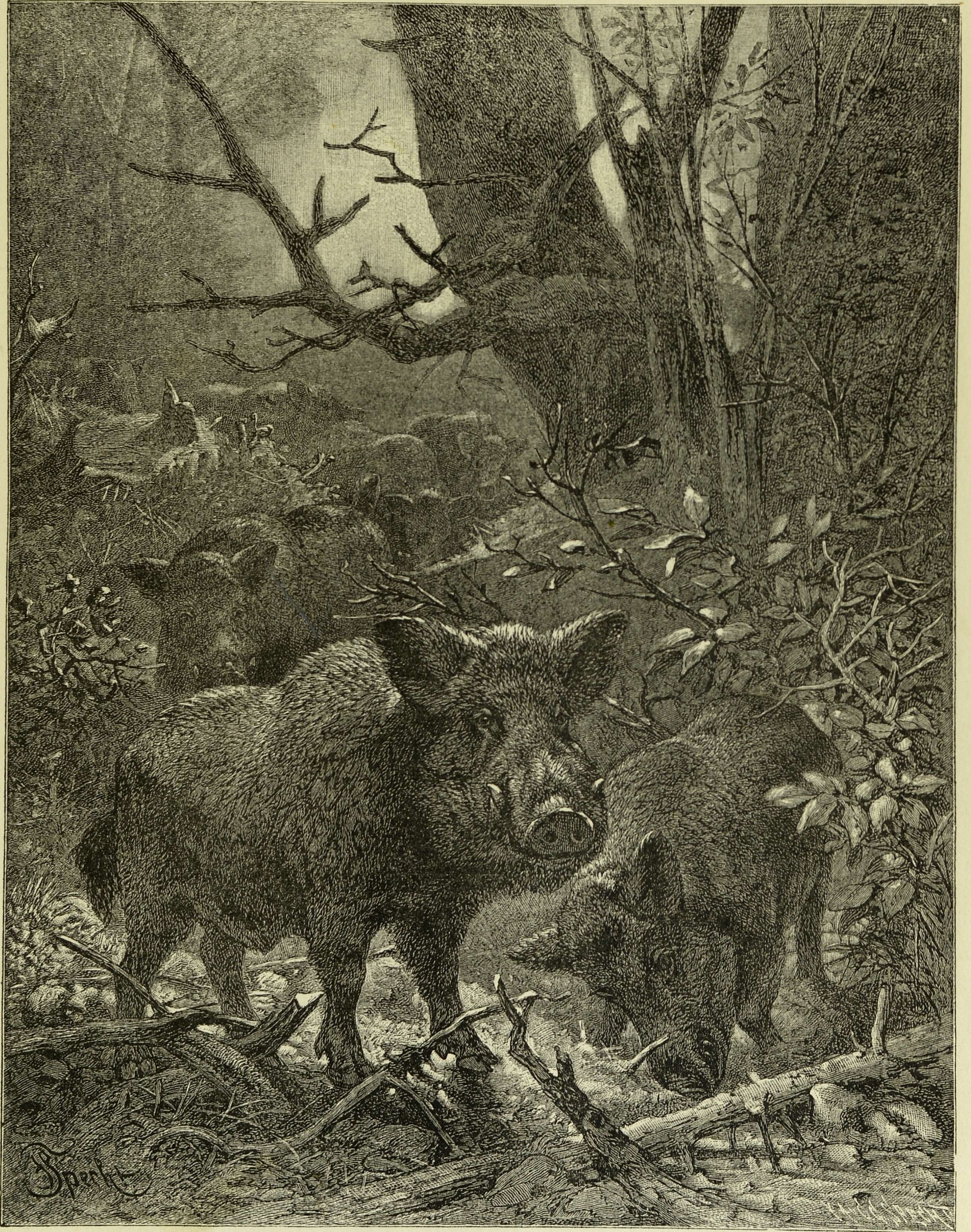
The Pig

THE Pig is an animal which most of us think rather uninteresting. We say that he is always dirty, and that he is a very greedy, lazy creature, doing nothing but eat, drink, and sleep. But we forget that we often shut him up in a small sty, in which he can do nothing but feed and sleep, and where he cannot keep himself clean, even if he would. When he is living a free life, out in his native woods, he never eats so much as to become fat and lazy. And he is then as cleanly as any other animal.

Although we may not like the pig, we cannot deny that he is very serviceable to us in many different ways. He not only provides us with pork, ham, and bacon, but his skin when tanned becomes a very good and hard leather, and the bristles, or hard hairs which cover it, are made into many kinds of brushes.

The Pig, as we know him, has been so long kept tame that he has changed not only in his habits, but also in his appearance. If we could see a wild pig and a tame one together, we should at once notice many differences between them. The wild pig has a longer snout, larger tusks, rounder ears, a sharper face, and a lighter and stronger body than his tame cousin. His skin, too, is black and covered with black bristles with yellow points, while the tame pig is generally pink, or yellowish white in colour, though he is sometimes black or spotted with black.

Not very long ago wild pigs were found in England, and men used to hunt the boars, or male pigs, just as they hunt foxes now.



THE WILD BOAR

The Kangaroo

THE KANGAROO is a very strange-looking animal. When he is sitting upright, which is his usual position, he looks like a greatly overgrown hare. He has very small and short fore-legs; but his hind-legs, and especially the thighs, are very large.

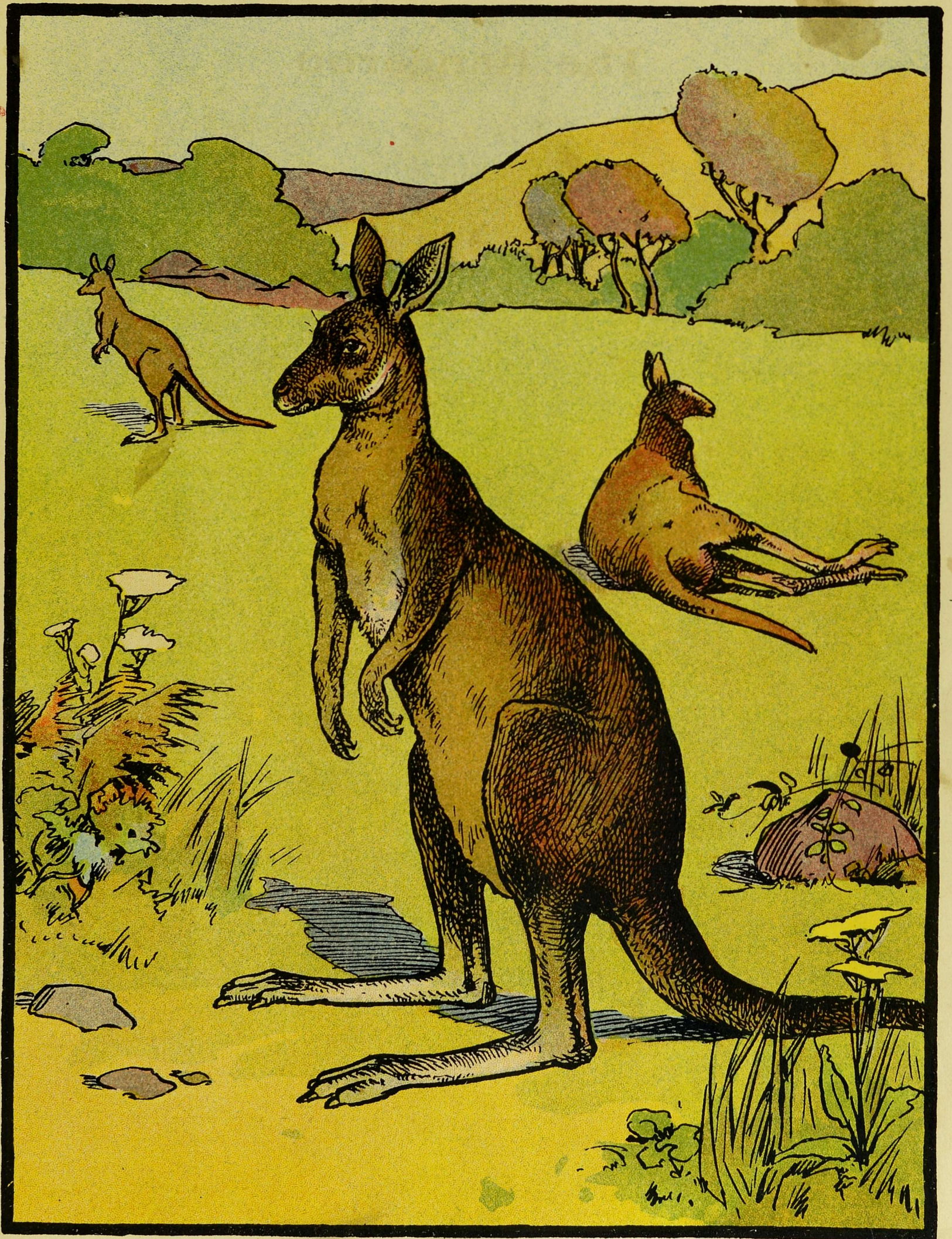
He does not therefore run, as most other animals do, but hops along, in a nearly upright position, like a dog when "begging". His big hind-legs are so strong that at every bound he springs over about fifteen feet of ground. If he be alarmed he can travel so fast that even a swift dog can scarcely overtake him.

Each hind foot of the Kangaroo is armed with a very large and sharp claw. This is so terrible a weapon that it has often been known to rip up the body of a large dog at a single stroke of the Kangaroo's leg.

The Kangaroo is always ready to run away, but, if brought to bay, he will fight very fiercely. He makes, if possible, for a big tree, against which he sets his back, so that he cannot be attacked from behind. And as soon as a man or a dog ventures within reach he kicks out angrily, and his aim is so true that he very seldom misses his mark.

So well is this habit known, that those who hunt the Kangaroo put collars made of strong chain on their dogs, so as to prevent them from being killed.

But sometimes the Kangaroo will kill the dogs in quite a different manner; for, if he can find a pond or a stream, he will leap boldly in, and, seizing the first of his pursuers,



THE KANGAROO

THE KANGAROO

will hold it under water until it is drowned.

Kangaroos are only found in Australia and Tasmania, where they live in large flocks. As their skins can be made into very good leather they are much hunted, and many thousands are destroyed every year. So many, indeed, of these remarkable animals are killed, that in some parts of Australia they are now protected by law during several months in the year, just as pheasants, partridges, and other game birds are protected in our own country.



When Kangaroos are born they are only about an inch long; not much bigger, indeed, than newly-born rats. But the mother has a curious pouch in her body, in which she carries her family until they are eight or nine months old.

By chance the little ones may be seen poking their heads out of the pouch, as though to see what the world is like. After a time they are allowed to come out for a little while, and hop about on the ground. But if any danger appears, their mother quickly puts them back into her pouch.

The Whale

THE Whale is not a fish although he spends his whole life in the sea, for he is a warm-blooded animal and breathes air, while the fish are cold-blooded and breathe water. Yet in form he is very like a fish. This form, however, is necessary to enable him to move quickly through the water in order that he may overtake his prey. As ordinary limbs would be very much in his way, he is not provided with legs at all. Instead he has two short paddles on the fore part of his body and a large flat fish-like tail set crossways, and not up and down like that of a fish. By means of this tail he is able to swim at a great speed, for it is so powerful that with a single blow he has been known to dash a boat to pieces.

The Greenland Whale is the largest animal in the world. He lives chiefly in the cold Arctic seas, but he is sometimes found quite close to our own coasts. To enable him to live in the icy home which he has chosen he is provided with a very thick coat of blubber, which is a layer of fat that protects the animal from the cold like a warm greatcoat. This blubber contains a large quantity of oil, and this oil is so valuable that in order to obtain it many men sail every year to the Arctic seas to hunt the Whale.

The Whale is a splendid diver, and can remain under water for more than an hour at a time. When he can do without air no longer, he rises to the surface, and takes fifty or sixty deep breaths from the blow-holes, or nostrils, which are placed in the top of his head. With each breath he spouts up a beautiful fountain of water. We may wonder

THE WHALE

how it is that the water does not flow down these blow-holes when the Whale dives. The reason is, that the nostrils are made in such a way as to close as soon as the Whale sinks under water, and open again only when the animal returns to the surface.

Besides oil there is another valuable product which we get from the whale, namely, whalebone.

If we could examine a Whale's mouth, we should see the whalebone hanging down from the upper jaw in large plates. Each of these plates ends in a kind of fringe, so that the whole forms a close mesh-work all round the mouth, through which nothing can pass but water.

These fringed plates are very useful to the Whale; without them he would not be able to hold his prey after he had caught it. For this great Whale has a very narrow throat; indeed, although he is such an enormous animal, he cannot swallow anything larger than such creatures as shrimps, small jelly-fish, and the young of crabs and lobsters.

These small creatures always live in large shoals, and are caught by the Whale in a very remarkable way. Opening his great jaws as widely as possible, he swims rapidly through the shoal. As he does this the water rushes into his mouth, carrying with it thousands of the little creatures. Then he closes his jaws and as the water flows from his mouth again the whalebone fringe prevents his victims from escaping. As the plates of whalebone are sometimes eleven feet in length, we can imagine how large the mouth must be, and the immense number of victims it can hold.

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