

the grazing ground and that the cattle and goats entering the reserve sections of the forests attract the tigers and panthers which, emboldened with the success of their adventure, will realise that it is easier to strike down the domestic animals than chase the deer. In trying to rescue his cattle from the clutches of their enemies, the villager succeeds in injuring them and the result of all this is to convert a forest dweller into a prowling village thief. Elephants, pigs, bisons, deer and antelopes can be successfully kept out of the cultivated grounds by a trench which, besides serving as a barrier, will help to conserve the moisture in the subsoil that is so essential for the prosperity and fertility of the lands. This is an expensive and laborious task and the slack season in agriculture will provide the necessary time, and labour may be secured on a co-operative basis. Even if it were desirable, it would be impracticable to suggest that wild animals should not be killed for their flesh, but energetic measures will have to be taken by the Association that all such activities are limited to a single definite purpose and that in no case the permission granted is abused. The administration of game laws is always fraught with difficulty and in some cases even with danger. The active co-operation of the planters and native shikaris will have to be enlisted by the Association in the enforcement of the government regulations and the powers of forest officers should be enlarged to deal with cases of violation of the rules.

It must not be forgotten that the present age delights in sensational thrills and excesses, and measures the merit of things by their advertisement. People have a more touching faith in the "sanctity of broken

records" than in the enduring value of work done in solitude and tranquillity. Hunting either for obtaining pleasure or for establishing new records must be deprecated. It will have to be resorted to only for the removal of evil. The aim of the Association should be to encourage the study of the habits of wild animals in their native haunts, their interdependence in the economy of nature, their adaptive modifications, their evolutionary history, their jealousies, affections and antipathies, their social instincts and crude forms of patriarchal government among gregarious forms and all those features of unsophisticated wild life which instruct the human mind and ennoble its sympathies.

The Association will have to treat this task as a humanitarian mission, the reward for its successful and satisfactory accomplishment is the gratification that its members have restrained the reckless waste of animal life whose closer and sympathetic study might furnish clues to an illuminating interpretation of some of the obscure and puzzling psychological and sociological problems of man. In the supreme interest of science, elephants and the South Indian ibex which possess a historical importance should receive special consideration and the Association should regard their protection as its sacred duty. We fully realise the magnitude and the importance of the task which will be assigned to the Association and we hope that its formation will not be unduly delayed. The generous support and enthusiasm which H. E. the Governor of Madras has accorded to the movement and the co-operation which the Association expects from the enlightened Governments of South Indian States offer hopes of success.

Acknowledgment.

WE acknowledge with deep gratitude the generous grant for *Current Science*, of Rupees Three Hundred per annum for three years, by the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore. That His Highness' Government should have made this grant in the present state of financial

stringency is an additional proof of the great sympathy with which they encourage the cause of Science. We are optimistic. We believe that in the near future, other Provincial Governments and Indian States will appreciate our services in an equally handsome manner.