A peaceful scene of a Lioness and Cub, distance from camera under 50 ft. Both Lion and Buffalo will make frequent movement as if about to "go for" the photographer and on such occasions it is essential to stand firm: to attempt to run would be fatal.
wonderful work which Belgium has done in fauna preservation, especially in the protection of the Gorilla in the Albert National Park. Belgium is, I understand, steadily establishing more National Parks, and her record in this connection is one of which she may well be proud. I hope His Excellency may be able to tell us something of the latest developments of what is being done in the Congo.

It only remains for me to thank you, Lord Onslow, and your fellow-members, for your kind hospitality to-night.

The Society is rendering a valuable service but there is a great deal more, especially on the educational side, which it could do with an increased membership. I am sure that there are many people interested in animal life who would be only too glad to join if the work of the Society were better known, and I sincerely hope that before long this may come to pass.

In wishing all success to your future activities I give you the toast of the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is hoped that this number of the Journal, issued during the season of holiday in the British Isles, will reach many of our members during a period of leisure. We believe that they will find plenty to interest them in its pages and that they will enjoy, in particular, Mr. Redfern's excellent and interesting photographs of wild life and his note of his experiences with the camera. Members who do not wish to keep it can do the Society a service by sending it to friends who might be sufficiently interested to join the Society. The total number of life and annual members is still some sixty short of the thousand we had hoped to reach before the end of this year. Lack of funds compels economy in every direction. We should like to expand the text of the Journal and to illustrate it more freely, and there is much
Editorial Notes

propaganda work which we could do if we had the money. But, above all, we need the influence which numbers give. We want thousands to be actively interested in the work, not merely subscribing to our funds, but engaging the interest of others and ready to make their voices heard in political circles. The present influence of the Society is considerable, but it could be much greater if every member would become its active herald.

Members are reminded that the next meeting of the Society will be held on 13th November.

The Next International Fauna Conference.—The next International Fauna Conference, at which the African Convention, and its application, will be further examined and the endeavour will be made to secure agreement to extend its principles by a wider Convention to South-East Asia and Australasia, is to be opened in London on 7th November, under the Chairmanship of the Earl of Onslow, our President. Unfortunately every engagement in these troubled times must be regarded as provisional. The war clouds are still heavy and it would be foolish to be blind to the possibility that the assembly of this Conference, designed to further the conservation of Nature's treasures for the benefit of future generations of mankind, may be prevented by a cataclysm of destruction, from which all mankind would suffer from generation to generation. But it would be equally foolish to let such fears and doubts deter us from planning good work. Nor should we lose our faith that such conferences as these, where men of many nations meet with the common aim of securing the common good, help to promote good feeling and sane relations between race and race.

A Third Whaling Conference.—A further Whaling Conference was held in July of representatives of the governments of the principal whaling countries. The conference took place, as on former occasions, in London. At its conclusion, on 20th July, the representatives of the United States of America, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, and Norway signed
recommendations regarding further working of the original Agreement (1937) and of last year's protocol. The most important of these recommendations—which will be communicated by the Foreign Office to all the signatory governments—is that the protection accorded last year to the Humpback Whale should be continued during next season. The arrangement of last year was that it should be illegal for any catcher working pelagically (i.e. based on a factory ship) in Antarctic waters to kill any Humpback Whale. So far it has, unfortunately, been impossible to secure agreement for the protection of the Humpback Whale against attack from land stations during migration, when many of them pass close to the coasts, especially of Western Australia. It is to be hoped that this further protection will be accorded before it is too late, for it is during the breeding migration that these Whales are most vulnerable. Nevertheless, the protection given them in the Antarctic is not insignificant.

The Annual Dinner.—The experiment of holding the Annual Dinner of the Society in the restaurant of the Zoological Gardens was, by common consent, an unqualified success. H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester honoured the Society by his presence. His Royal Highness proposed the toast of the Society in a speech, the text of which opens this number of the Journal. Other guests of the Society were the High Commissioners for Australia, Canada, Southern Rhodesia, and New Zealand, and their wives. The other High Commissioners were, unfortunately, unable to accept the Society's invitation. The main garden was illuminated and some of the houses were kept open for the occasion. The night was fine and members and their friends were able after dinner to walk about in perfect conditions. The total number of diners, including guests, was 168. We failed, unfortunately, to cover expenses, and it will be necessary, if the experiment is repeated next summer, to find economies or to increase the price of dinner tickets. We take this opportunity of thanking the Zoological Society of London and, in particular, the Superintendent of the Society and the Caterer for the excellence of
the arrangements, which were carried out on a bare cost basis.

*Rhinoceros Sondaicus.*—We are fortunate in being able to publish an article by Mr. H. R. Blanford, late Chief Conservator of Forests in Burma, on the subject of the occurrence of *Rhinoceros sondaicus* in Burma. In various quarters it has been suggested that *Rhinoceros sondaicus* is extinct in Burma and that only *Rhinoceros sumatrensis* survives. Mr. Blanford is able to supply convincing evidence that some *Rhinoceros sondaicus* still exist in the Kahilu Sanctuary, five of them almost certainly, and probably seven.

He advances suggestions for improving the conditions within the sanctuary so as to secure for these survivors the peace and quiet which they at present lack, and without which it is improbable that they will breed since they are very shy and retiring animals.

*The Giant Panda.*—The successful exhibition in England and U.S.A. of Giant Pandas in captivity and the widespread interest taken in this curious animal have had unfortunate results. The cupidity of native hunters was aroused and reports reached the Society that large numbers of them were being trapped for export, many, if not most of which failed to survive the journey to the coast. The Executive Committee appealed to corresponding Societies abroad and to the Foreign Office and the Burma Office to endeavour to secure protection for the Pandas against this reckless and cruel exploitation. The reason for approaching the Burma Office was that it was believed that, owing to the difficulties of transport to Shanghai caused by the hostilities between Japan and China, the attempt was, or would be, made to export the animals through Burma, and it was hoped that the Government of Burma would, if approached, take measures to prevent the export.

These appeals have borne fruit. The provincial Government of Szechuen has prohibited the capture of the Giant Panda, and the Government of Burma has used its powers under the Sea Customs Act of 1878 to prohibit its export.
from British Burma. The Society can thus claim, not for the first time, to have extended its activities usefully beyond the limits of the Empire.

*Protection of Wild Life in French Indo-China.*—A member of the Society, resident in Ceylon, asked us recently for information about game in French Indo-China. He had received a brochure, presumably an advertisement of a professional safari service, about hunting in this region, and the terms were so modest as to suggest to him that hunting prospects were poor. Through the kindness of M. Ruffat, of the Ministry of Colonies in Paris, we have acquired information about the legislation, general and local, respecting hunting and the protection of wild life in French Indo-China.

In view of the inquiry addressed to us, and of the discussion to take place next November of the extension of the principles of the African Convention to Asiatic Fauna, we have thought it worth while to publish in the *Journal* (pp. 32–40) an abridged translation of the legislation in force. It will be seen that the legislative provisions for fauna protection are comprehensive and are generally in accord with the principles of the Convention. The provisions regarding the administration of national parks prohibiting all concessions for agricultural, industrial, and other undertakings are so excellent, that the concluding words “unless previously authorized by the local administration” are disappointing. The inclusion in the list of persons disqualified to receive permits of those who, having held permits, have more than twice invoked the necessity of self-defence as an excuse for killing a protected animal is an appropriate touch of French logic which provokes an approving smile. As a whole, both the general and the local legislation seem sound and, if backed by effective administration, should be valuable.

As to the efficiency of the administration we have consulted the well-known French naturalist, M. Jean Delacour of Clères. His report is not encouraging. He informs us that game is abundant at present in Indo-China, but that the
legislation for conservation is not strictly enforced. He finds it to be, on the one hand, too complicated and too restrictive for complete enforcement and, on the other, defective through certain serious omissions. In Cochin-China, however, he finds that the local Orders have remedied some of the defects and the situation is "not so bad" as elsewhere.

The two chief weaknesses in his opinion are legislation the severity of which is far in advance of, and, therefore, not supported by public opinion, and the lack, with which we are all too familiar in our own colonies, of an adequate executive staff to enforce obedience to the law and the Orders. At present, according to M. Delacour, all the rules are openly defied. To give a single example from several that he mentions, game meat is openly sold and served in hotels and restaurants throughout Indo-China during the close seasons. We quote the facts not as critics of France's management of her own affairs, but as an example for the instruction of those who are called upon to manage ours.

M. Ruffat was kind enough to send us also a pamphlet on game in Indo-China, issued, on the occasion of the Paris International Exhibition of 1937, by the Bureau Officiel du Tourisme Indochinois. From this pamphlet it appears that Elephant, Gaur, and Banteng are plentiful. Wild Buffalo were once numerous in the lowland marsh country, but the numbers have been greatly reduced by Rinderpest. They are still to be found in South Annam and Cambodia.

Rhinoceros.—Both Rhinoceros sondaicus and R. sumatrensis are found in Indo-China but have become rare. They live in thick marshy bush country and are said to be seldom seen. Tapir (Tapirus indicus) is said to have become even more rare than the Rhinoceros. Only two have been killed in Indo-China in the last thirty years.

Tiger is abundant practically everywhere in Indo-China, certainly everywhere where there is game. The best Tiger country is in South Annam. The ordinary Leopard and the black variety are apparently plentiful. Clouded Leopard
is said to be common in Siam but rather rare in Indo-China. The Golden Leopard is said to be found but to be very rare. Malayan and Himalayan Bears are found, but only occasionally. Wild Dog or Dhole are plentiful and regarded as vermin.

The following Deer are found: Samba, Eld's Deer, Axis or Chital, Hog Deer, and Muntjac. All of these are abundant in many parts of Indo-China. Swamp Deer are not found.

The Malayan Mouse Deer (Tragulus javanicus) appears to be the only species of Chevrotains found in the country. The Serow (Capricornis sumatrensis) is found on the high and rocky mountain slopes where, apparently, they are fairly plentiful. Wild Pig are sufficiently plentiful to be a source of trouble in the plantations.

There are numerous small mammals, of which the most interesting are Tiger Cat, various Civets, Gibbons (the only anthropoids found in the country), various Semnopitheques, Langurs, the Long-tailed Grey Monkey, Short-tailed Grey Monkey, and several others. Pangolins, Porcupines, various Squirrels, large and small, Otters, and Rabbits are also found.

Among reptiles there are two species of Crocodiles, the Marine Crocodile (Crocodilus porosus) and the Marsh Crocodile (Crocodilus palustris). Varanus salvator, described as the largest Lizard in the world is said to be very common in Indo-China and to be encountered everywhere in the bush. It is said to reach in Indo-China a length of 2½ metres. Snakes of many kinds are said to be abundant.

Birds are very numerous. The ones considered as game are Peacock, Blue Pheasant, Silver Pheasant, Golden Pheasant, which is found only in Tonkin, Bush Fowl, various Pigeons, Francolin, Partridges, Quails, Teal, and various kinds of Duck. Snipe are very abundant in the rice fields in the rainy season; Woodcock are also abundant in the north.

The Corncrake.—We publish a note by an occasional correspondent relating to an inquiry which the British Trust for Ornithology is conducting with regard to the population of Corncrakes or Land-Rails in the British Isles.
The inquiry, begun last year, is being continued this year. It does not appear to be contemplated that it should be an annual affair, but the subject is sufficiently interesting to justify very careful study. The Corncrake seems to provide a typical instance of an animal, the existence of which has been imperilled, not through any form of persecution, but through changes of circumstance springing from altered methods of husbandry.

*Animal Behaviour.*—We invite special attention to certain of the extracts published in this number from the Uganda Game Department's Report and from the Report of the Warden of the Kruger National Park. In both there will be found stories of Elephant behaviour both interesting and entertaining.

There is an interesting story also in the Report of the Warden of the Kruger National Park of the rather disconcerting interest taken by a Lioness in the camp equipment of a tourist who was engaged in dealing with a flat rear tyre.

*Disease Control.*—One of our extracts from the Report of the Game Warden on the Kruger National Park (p. 59) gives rise to reflections on the difficult question of control within National Parks and Reserves of diseases to which cattle are subject. As a result of sporadic outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease among cattle in, and in the vicinity of, the Park it was eventually decided by the veterinary authorities that all cattle, without exception, must be destroyed throughout the Park as a measure of precaution. It may be questioned whether this was a wise step. The evidence suggests that the outbreaks were due to infections brought in through human agency and that there was little probability of the disease being spread to the isolated groups of native cattle by the game. The cattle are, however, susceptible to diseases, such as nagana, to which the game is either not subject or only very slightly subject and the cattle may, therefore, as the Game Warden has pointed out more than once, serve as useful indicators of the presence of these diseases should
they occur. In all the circumstances the slaughter policy adopted seems to be a matter for regret.

The Thylacine.—Mr. Andrewartha sends us encouraging information about the Thylacine, Tasmanian Tiger, or Tasmanian Wolf—whichever appellation may be preferred. The Thylacine is not extinct. There are grounds for belief that it exists in sufficient numbers to justify the hope that it may be preserved for futurity. Briefly the position is this. Expeditions of inquiry sent out in 1937 and 1938 secured positive evidence of the existence of the Thylacine in mountainous country in the western part of Tasmania. The Animals and Birds' Protection Board of Tasmania, who have promoted these two expeditions, intend to carry out further investigations this year. Their investigators have found tracks of Thylacines, of which they have taken plaster casts and have provisionally marked out the boundaries of a sanctuary in rough country where the gorges are so steep and so numerous that the animals should be safe from hunters.

Mr. Andrewartha's letter, with reports enclosed, has reached us too late to do justice to them in this number of the Journal. But we shall deal fully with them in the next. We hope also to receive shortly a report on the subject which we understand is being published in the Journal of the Royal Society of New South Wales.

The information received so far seems to justify the hope that there may be a sufficient stock surviving to be saved and developed if the State Government agree to proclaim a suitable sanctuary for this unique species.

Water and Wild Life.—We publish on pp. 65-68 two brief reviews which raise the question of the effect on wild life of interference with natural conditions. Major E. H. Ward, a resident of Kenya Colony, reviews a report by Dr. I. B. Pole-Evans, Chief of the Division of Plant Industry, Union of South Africa, on a visit paid to Kenya. Dr. Pole-Evans stresses the danger of soil erosion arising from destruction of grass, particularly as a result of overstocking. But, rather
strangely he casts doubt on the value of forests and suggests that they should be converted to pasture.

Dr. Carmichael Lowe reviews a paper on Wild Life of the Atlantic Coast Salt Marshes by Dr. W. L. McAtee, Technical Advisor and Research Specialist of the Bureau of Biological Survey of the U.S.A. This paper deals with the effects on wild life of intensive drainage of the salt marshes in furtherance of mosquito control. Land drainage raises in a different form the same question as deforestation—the interference of man with the needs both of animals and of mankind. Broadly speaking, the question in both cases is one of water. Some forms of life require an abundance of water which would be fatal to others; but without water there can be no life; and too often men have failed to foresee how their operations are going to affect the supply and distribution of water till it is too late.

Reports have reached us of concessions, actual or proposed, for the conversion of large tracts of the bamboo forest of the Aberdare Mountains to paper pulp. We have not as yet the full facts; but if such concessions are contemplated, the authorities would do well to consider the visible effects of widespread deforestation in Africa and, more notably still, in the United States of America.

*Journals of our Collaborators.—* It is difficult for us, in our limited space, to do justice to the Journals of Societies in the Colonies and elsewhere whose aims are identical with our own. On page 68 will be found a list of Journals, Reports, etc., recently received, all of which may be consulted at the Office of the Society or, on promise of speedy return, lent to members.

*Loris,* the Journal of the Ceylon Game and Fauna Protection Society, Vol. I, No. 6, contains, among much interesting material, a report by Mr. Tutein-Nolthenius of a visit to the Yala Strict Natural Reserve, where it seems that problems of over-stocking have arisen. This may, perhaps, be accounted for, in part, by the lack of large and powerful carnivores in Ceylon.
The Journal of the Nigerian Field Society is, as usual, full of interesting information and admirably illustrated. The issue most recently received, Vol. VIII, No. 3, does not raise any special problems but is well worth study.

The June number of the Australian Nature Magazine, *Wild Life*, gives first place to a note on "Tracking Tasmanian Tigers", to which, with other material on the subject of the Thylacine, we shall refer in our next issue. It contains many other interesting contributions and is pleasantly illustrated.

The Report of the Game Department of Uganda and that of the Game Warden of the Kruger National Park are referred to elsewhere in these notes. All of these are available to members of the Society who may wish to consult them.

Obituary.—We have heard with great regret of the death of Mr. H. G. Robins, of Southern Rhodesia, a member of this Society and a pioneer in Africa of Fauna Preservation. A brief memoir of him appears below. It is written by Mr. A. W. Redfern, who knew him well.

**OBITUARY.**

**HERBERT G. ROBINS.**

Mr. Herbert G. Robins, whose death in Southern Rhodesia was recently reported, was an ardent supporter of this Society. His death is not only a great loss to the Society and to Rhodesia, but will be deplored by the many visitors to his wild animal sanctuary and by all who appreciate his great work in the preservation of animal life.

Born in Kent in 1867, he has been soldier, hunter, prospector, explorer, naturalist, scientist, farmer, and finally devoted his life to animal protection. He travelled in many parts including Australia, New Guinea, South Africa, Belgian Congo, and Angola, as well as the Rhodesias. He was one of the earliest pioneers of Southern Rhodesia though it was not