[page 23]

**Hunting and Hunters’ Lore in Korea.**

By H. H. Underwood.

 When curiosity prompted me a few months ago to attempt to find out what kind of animals I was hunting, I was surprised to discover that it was a field that had hardly been touched. It is to be hoped that some one qualified for this work will take it up and treat it more thoroughly and authoritatively than it is possible for me to do.

 I first turned to a fairly complete collection of books on Korea only to meet with statements ranging from the assertion that Korea abounded in alligators and crocodiles to the more truthful though hardly more helpful one that game of all kinds is to be found here.

 Finally, in the last chapter of Captain Cavendish’s book, “Korea and the Sacred White Mountain,” I found a list of the animals which he had seen or heard of in Korea. In the main he has given the scientific names, and has starred those that he personally saw, while some of the others he has carefully marked as doubtful. This list has been of considerable help, though as I went on, I have been presumptuous enough to differ with Captain Cavendish, despite the fact that he was evidently much better equipped to deal with the subject than I. Nevertheless, I feel that the fact that he only spent a couple of months in the country and was ignorant of the language, to a certain extent compensates for his better equipment in knowledge of the subject, and in several cases I am forced to believe that Captain Cavendish was mistaken in what he thought he saw.

 Turning from books to native sources, the material available is varied and vari-coloured in the extreme, and you have the advantage or disadvantage, according to the development of [page 24] your conscience, of taking and leaving what you like. Their animal stories begin with the folk-tales, with which we have no concern here, and these merge into other stories of animals endowed with supernatural powers, which to them are matters of fact. Of such is the story of the snow-white fox, several hundred years old, who to this day haunts the slopes of Kwan-ak-san.

 These again are followed by a series which have their birth in carelessness in observation, unbounded credulity and wild exaggeration. Naturally the city-bred people around us can tell one little or nothing about the animals, and many of them are ignorant of even the names of all but the commonest species. The average farmer is only a degree better and it is to the hunters and trackers that you must go for the modicum of truth which lies beneath the covering of superstition, exaggeration and ignorance.

 A word or two in regard to these hunters and trackers and how they hunt. Even among hardy mountain people, they are remarkably strong and vigorous. On two occasions I have had men of over sixty who raced up and down the hills and through the thick underbrush as though they were boys. They left me far behind, several times offering to carry my gun for me. Once, when stupid farmers, acting as beaters, has bungled things, an old gentleman of over seventy, a famous hunter in his day, offered to guide us and apparently found no great difficulty in climbing the hills and beating through the brush. Most of them are good trackers; one big fellow over six feet, hardly stooped to look at the tracks but strode along as though he was following a path. I saw them track a boar back and forth over the hills for the greater part of three days without being seriously at fault once, and they told me of trackers who could estimate to within an ounce or so the weight of a stag’s horns from its tracks.

 Captain Cavendish says that the Koreans are too lazy and cowardly to beat for tigers, and there are undoubtedly many Koreans whom no money would induce to hunt tigers. But as [page 25] I have watched them beat and noted the kind of territory that they had to go over, it never occurred to me to call them lazy; and personally I think that a man might be excused for hesitating about beating for tiger, though the Koreans do it without making any fuss at all. The beaters are, of course, entirely unarmed, while even the hunters were formerly armed with a gun that was effective at only comparatively short ranges. This gun took an unconscionable time to load after it was once fired and had no stock to rest against the shoulder and steady the aim, but was held pistol fashion and its fuse was as likely as not to go out at the wrong moment.

 By beaters I do not mean a crowed of men who merely go through the woods and make a noise, but a few men who by watching the position of the other beaters, the lay of the land and the direction the animal is taking, systematically drive him in. The hills are so precipitous that the game will cross the ridges and valleys by one of a few fairly well marked cuts or drives if the beaters do their work well. The hunter climbs up to one of these places and waits, sometimes half an hour, sometimes three or four hours, and I once sat at the top of a pass from 12:00 till 4:30. In cold weather you can tell the time by the changing feelings in your feet, but after a couple of hours the feeling ceases and their usefulness is at an end till the next time. Two or three good beaters who know the country and the habits of the game will send them in every time, while ten or twelve men who merely make a noise will let the animals slip back again and again.

 But let us turn to the animals themselves, beginning with the deer. Many Koreans will tell you that there are but two kinds of deer in the country, Noro and Sasim. Closer inquiry among the hunters will show that they subdivide the Noro into three species, Po-noro; Hyang-noro, sometimes called Kuk-noro; and Tai-noro, known in some parts as Ko-ra-ni. The Sasim are also divided into two species under the rather indefinite manes of Kang-won Province Sasim and Ham-Kyung Province, Sasim, the does of [page 26] both kinds of Sasim being known by the specific feminine noun, Ner-aingai. The natives, then, divide the deer of the country into five species and it remains for us to determine whether this division in correct and if so what these species are.

 The po-noro are small deer, without horns in either sex, the males of which have the upper canines highly developed into large sabre like tusks, three or four inches in length. Mr. Reppert, while living here, shot two of these deer near Munsan-po or Buzan and it was from him that I first heard of them. Later other foreigners mentioned having seen them and I learned from the Koreans that they never have horns. In looking these up I was rather puzzled by the fact that Lydekker in his book, “Deer of all Lands,” states that there are but two species of deer having these characteristics, i. e. the water deer of China and the musk deer. But inquiry and observation soon showed that they are always found on the plains by the river, their very name meaning “plains-deer.” Mr. Reppert shot his by the river; Dr. Underwood told me that the first he ever saw were in the reeds by the river; and I found that all the places mentioned by the Koreans as frequented by the po-noro were close by a river or large stream, though in some cases they have been driven to the low hills as much as ten or fifteen li back from the water. Let us see how this compares with what Lydekker says of the Water-deer: “A small member of the deer tribe, from Northern China, differing from all other Cervidae, except the musk deer, (with which it has no affinity), by the absence of antlers in both sexes. To compensate for this deficiency the bucks are armed with long sabrelike tusks. The species typifies a genus, and is known as Hyrelaphus inermis. Water-deer frequent the neighborhood of the large Chinese rivers where they crouch among the reeds and grasses.” It seems therefore as though it is safe to say that the ponoro is the Chinese water-deer.

 By way of introduction to the Korean hyang-noro, I would call your attention to a line in the above quotation from Mr. Lydekker: “The water-deer differ from all other [page 27] Cervidae except the musk-deer by the absence of antlers in both sexes.” While inquiring about the po-noro, a Korean, who has hunted pretty well all over the country, told me that, in the higher mountains of Kang Won province, deer were hunted for the perfume contained in a small sac in the abdomen of the males. This be stated was a somewhat inferior grade of the same perfume from China. I went immediately to a Korean acquaintance of mine, who is a partner in one of the wholesale hide firms outside the South Gate. There are four of five of these companies in Seoul and most of the skins which come to the city pass through their hands. He confirmed all that the first man had told me and added that the fur was much coarser and more brittle than that of the ordinary deer. Further inquiry among Koreans brought the information that they were if anything smaller and darker in color than the po-noro, and that they were usually found singly, though sometimes in pairs. Compare this with the following description of the Musk-deer: “An aberrant member of the deer family constituting the sub-family Cervidae Moschinae. Both sexes are devoid of antler appendages but, as in the Hydrelaphus inermis, the upper canines are long and sabre-like, projecting below the chin with the ends turned somewhat backwards. In size the musk-deer is about 20 inches at the shoulder. The hair covering the body is long, coarse and of a peculiarly brittle character; it is generally of a greyish brown color…… The special gland of the muskdeer is found in a sac about the size of a small orange beneath the skin of the abdomen.”

 When, in addition to the fact that the testimony of several classes of Koreans tallies almost exactly with the above description, we remember that musk is a well known commercial commodity in Korea I think that in this case we are justified in taking the word of the Koreans and concluding that the Hyang-noro of Korea is the musk-deer.

 The only objections which can be raised lie in the fact that the range of the musk-deer, as usually stated, does not extend to the neighborhood of Korea, nor do the altitudes at which they are [page 28] usually found, from the Himalayas to Tibet, northwestern China, and Siberia in the Altai region at altitudes of usually not less than 8000 ft, in summer, correspond to the altitudes in Korea. The Siberian musk however is a very inferior grade, and while the Altai mountains rise to great height in certain peaks the mean altitude of the region is said to be between 5000 and 5500 ft. The higher mountains of the range that runs south from the Paik-tu-san along the east coast of Korea would easily average between 3000 and 4000 feet while some rise to 5000 and 6000 feet. With the difference in altitude no more than this and the fact that the musk of the region from which they are most likely to have come is, like the Korean article, of an inferior grade, it seems to me that we are forced to believe that the musk-deer is here, and like many of our animals is an immigrant from Siberia.

 Captain Cavendish failed to see or hear of either the water-deer or the musk-deer, but reports having seen a Muntjac of the species C. Reevsi. I can not but think that what he saw was a water-deer and that seeing the tusks he mistook it for a Muntjac. The Muntjac is a small deer about the size of the water-deer but which has both horns and tusks. The horns are rather peculiar, having a backward curve at the extremities which almost amounts to a hook and the pedicles on which the horns rest are very prominent, so much so that it is sometimes known as the ribfaced deer. Another very noticeable feature is a black dorsal stripe. A deer with these characteristics would surely attract attention, yet I have inquired diligently. The hunters, one and all, stick to the assertion that there are deer without horns and with tusks but that they have never seen or heard of deer with horns and tusks.

 It is both difficult and dangerous to state an absolute negative but I can say that I, personally, am convinced that Captain Cavendish was mistaken and that the Muntjac is not to be found in Korea.

 The third species of deer is the Tai-noro, called Korani in [page 29] many parts of the country. This is a small and very pretty deer, the males of which have small antlers, with, as far as I can ascertain, only two tines. They have no tail at all but a large spot of erectile white hairs on the rump which serves as a guide to other members of the herd when in flight. I have seen as many as seven or eight together but in the main they seem to travel in pairs. In color they vary from a light fawn to a dark greyish brown that is almost black in certain lights.

 My first impression was that these were identical with the Japanese sika deer. But the sika are described as having a short black and white tail with black markings around it, while these deer have no vestige of a tail nor any black markings on them at all. I can hardly believe therefore that these are the Japanese sika and my information is too meagre to enable me to determine what they are.

 Next above the tai-noro in size we have the sasim, which, as I have said, the natives rather indefinitely divide under the names Kang Won Province sasim and Ham Kyung Province sasim. The first of these is apparently a species of sika deer known as Sika Mantchouricus, of which a specimen is to be seen in the Zoo in this city. They are a fairly large deer considerably darker as a rule than the korani, spotted in summer and with large handsome antlers.

 The Ham Kyeung sasim I have not seen though antlers have been brought to the house which I was told were those of Ham Kyeung Province deer. While the evidence which I personally have seen is rather slender I am inclined to agree with Captain Cavendish that this is the Red deer or Cervus Elephas. The antlers are certainly quite different from those of Kang Won Province deer, being not only much larger but different in shape and in the angle which they make with the head.

 Before leaving the subject of deer I want to be bold enough to attempt another negative statement. Captain Cavendish mentions the existence of fallow deer in Korea. Taking just one point, these are deer whose antlers are palmated to a considerable extent. I have been unable to find any [page 30] Koreans who had even heard of such a thing as the palmation of a deer’s antlers. Nor have I heard of any foreigner in any part of the country having ever seen such deer. Personally I feel convinced that there are only five species of deer in the country and that the two smallest of these are respectively the Water-deer and the Musk-deer, and that the Kang Won deer is the Sika Mantchouricus. I am inclined to believe the Ham Kyeung deer to be the Red deer and I am free to confess my ignorance as to the identity of the tai-noro. On the other hand I am quite sure that neither the Muntjac nor the Fallow deer exist in this country though I do not feel ready to make a definite statement to that effect.

 From deer the next step brings us to mountain goats, which are to be found in various parts of this country. Captain Cavendish mentions in his list four or five species of mountain goats, sheep, and goat-antelopes, of which he saw only one, and as far as I have been able to ascertain none of the others are to be found in Korea. The first on his list and the one which he has starred as having seen is the Nemorhedus caudata. This is the Goral or the Himalayan chamois. The more usual scientific name is the Nemorhedus goral and its range extends from the Himalayas northward to Manchuria and Korea, though I have not found mention of its existence in Korea except in Captain Cavendish’s book.

 When I was in Kang Won province last December the hunters told me of a place not far away where mountain goat were to be found. I wished to go and try my luck at the time but they said that at that time of the year the ice and snow made it impossible to get anywhere in the neighborhood of the peaks where the goats were. I therefore made arrangements to visit the place in the spring. This I did, and after a couple of hours of hard climbing up and over about the worst bit of country I have seen, we succeeded in getting four fairly good specimens. I had expected that the horns would be hooked as are the chamois horns. The Koreans had not only told me that they were, but added that the animals made use of these hooks in a [page 31] novel and ingenious way. It would seem that when they go to sleep on some lofty or precarious ledge they hook their horns over the branch of a convenient tree and thus insure themselves against falling off even if troubled with nightmare. I was told that the horns were worn smooth on the under side from being used in this way and so was keenly disappointed to find that they would not allow of this. The animals were considerably larger than I had expected, and the Koreans claimed that farther back in the hills, where even in April the snow and ice made the cliffs inaccessible, still larger ones were to be found. The height at the shoulder for the four we got was respectively 26, 27, 28, 29 inches; the horns were only 6 or 7 inches long; from the nose to between the horns was 11 inches for the largest and 8 inches for the smallest; while from between the horns to the tip of the tail was respectively 50, 53, 54 and 57 inches. In color they are a beautiful greyish-brown with pure white on the neck and belly, and a black dorsal stripe. The hair is long, thick and remarkably soft; the tail, which was longer than I had expected, shades from the brown grey of the body to white at the tip. As to their weight, I should judge that they must have been well over one hundred and fifty pounds, for the beaters, who would pick up a seventy or eighty pound deer and trot off as though it were a mere feather, had all they could do to carry these at all, and how they ever got them over the steep slippery pass on the way out I cannot tell.

 I feel that in recompense for the hard things that I have said about the country I must say a word for it in return. The steep, black cliffs, with the pines in some miraculous way clinging to them here and there, fell almost sheer to the river which twisted by in a succession of rapids a full thousand feet below. In places it has cut for itself a deep canyon through the solid rock and with the snow covered mountains on every side it made a scene well worth the trip, had we gotten no game at all.

 The Koreans call these animals mountain sheep, as a matter of fact they are not sheep but goats. I have not been [page 32] able to hear of mountain sheep in Korea though Captain Cavendish mentions having heard of the Argali. These are the near relatives of the Rocky Mountain Bighorn and are supposed to be the original from which the stock of domestic sheep was derived. I understand that some of these sheep were shot in Manchuria and if so it seems at least possible that they might be found in the mountains of northern Korea, though men who have hunted in both Manchuria and Northern Korea tell me that they have never seen them on this side of the border. Captain Cavendish also mentions two kinds of antelopes, the Saiga tartarica and the Procapra gutturosa and also the ibex, though he marks these as doubtful and I feel that they are more than doubtful.

 If, however; these animals are to be marked as doubtful there is on the other hand no doubt whatsoever about the wild boar, as the farmers will tell you most emphatically. Wild boars are distributed over a large part of the world and have many interesting features zoologically, of which I will mention only one here. They have four complete toes of which the two median ones are used in walking on dry land, the lateral ones being too short to reach the ground, but these prevent the animal from sinking in soft or marshy territory. The Korean boars apparently compare favorably in size with those in other parts of the world. The Indian boar, which measures 30 to 40 inches at the shoulder, is said to be larger than the European member of the family, yet the smallest that we measured stood 28 inches at the shoulder, the largest a full 40 inches, and the Koreans claim that there are considerably larger ones than any I have seen. I was told of one which weighed over 500 lbs. and had nine inch tusks. The color of the animals varies largely, ranging from almost black, through iron-grey, to a greyish brown. Beneath the long stiff bristles (sometimes 8 inches on the back) there is a softer curling undercoat of dirty brown. The animals are very plentiful in the mountain regions and are on the increase. They are a great pest to the farmers, as one large boar is said to be quite [page 33] capable of ruining the crops in a day’s plowing in one night. What they do not eat they root up, and I have seen fields which looked as though some one had been hard at work getting ready to plant trees. One of the Koreans described the appearance of one field by saying that the boars had built themselves a house with women’s quarters, guest room, kitchen and stables complete. They quite often travel in herds, the Koreans reporting having seen 14 or 15 in a herd, though I myself have never seen more than seven. The larger ones go by themselves and it is these that are supposed to be dangerous. There are undoubted cases of their charging even when unwounded, and only last fall a Japanese was, I believe, almost killed by one not far from this city. Once I *thought* that one, coming straight toward me, was coming all the way, but, as I straightened up to make sure of him, he saw me and turned to one side, thus giving me all the excitement and none of the inconvenience of his really charging. One of the men went up to a boar that was supposed to be dead and was knocked down the hill as the price of his mistake, but otherwise I have seen no sign of anything but a desire to get away, which they do at an astonishing rate, carrying a surprising amount of lead with them. The old Korean guns often failed to get the bullet through the tough hide and one of the hunters claims to have shot a boar from various parts of whose anatomy he extracted a small bowlful of Korean slugs. The boar I spoke of above had a hole clear through him from side to side and yet was going at such a rate that I supposed I had missed his entirely, and another one took three soft-nosed bullets from a modern high-power rifle before he stopped. The natives tell great stories of the big ones to be found in the more inaccessible mountains. They assured me that there were boars with tusks 12 to 18 inches long, the nearest approach to this, that I know of, being the one I mentioned with nine inch tusks. In weight they vary greatly according to the time of year. In fall and early winter they have a layer of fat two and three inches thick and in the spring practically none. They are fond of wallowing in the mud and [page 34] the bristles become so caked with it that the Koreans claim that small pine trees grow on the backs of the larger boars. Pak, one of my men, stated that he himself had shot one with seedling pines growing on it and when I laughed at him, he naively remarked, “If I’d been telling that story to any one else I would have told them the trees were big enough for roof beams, but seeing that it was you I made them only seedlings, and as you don’t believe even that I wish I’d told you that they were bigger.”

 There is one more interesting item which I must mention before I leave the subject of wild boars. As nearly as I can ascertain they make shelters for themselves. The Koreans claim that there are two kinds, one made by the boars and one made by the sows for their young. I have seen only the first, but perhaps before I go further I should explain what I mean by a shelter.

 One day on the hills I saw what appeared to be a low mound and on inquiring what it was they told me that it was a boar’s “house.” I kicked the snow off the top and disclosed a pile of sticks, straw, grass and small branches, the whole about five or six feet across. Borrowing a stick from one of the beaters, I started to scatter the branches and see what was underneath, but found that, carelessly as they seemed to be laid on, they were so twisted and matted together that it was almost impossible to tear them apart. Finally two of us put our sticks under the whole thing and lifting it up threw it back where it lay still intact. Underneath the ground had been dug out to a depth of about eight or ten inches in a hollow a little smaller than the covering. I couldn’t understand how the boar got in, till the Koreans stated that he lifts the covering with his snout and once in, the blanket, as you might call it, falls back snugly over him. Later I saw many of these things on the hills. It is true that I never saw one being made, or saw a boar in one, but I have seen them with plenty of tracks around. They certainly were not made by men and they certainly are made. Personally I am inclined to believe that they are the work of the boars. [page 35] The second kind are said to be much more substantial, made of larger sticks and raised from the ground. These the Koreans state are made by the sows for their young. Not having seen them I merely state that the Koreans claim that they exist, with the full knowledge that the Koreans state and claim many wonderful things.

 Less common than the boars, but still quite numerous, despite the fact that several writers on Korea deny their existence, and even Captain Cavendish makes no mention of them whatsoever, are the wolves. Oppert, for instance, says that while the name, irrui is known in the far north, neither name or beast is known in the interior of the country. Other later writers state that it was unknown up to about fifteen years ago. In this there is what I believe to be a half truth. But to explain my meaning I must pause to speak of the wolves now in the country.

 There are two species, a small wolf known as irrui and a much larger one known as mal-seungyeungi or neuktai. Dr. Underwood tells me that the first winter that he was here, thirty years ago, he met a Korean whose village had been suffering quite badly from the attacks of irrui packs, made bold by the winter. Koreans getting on in years have told me that the irrui have been in Korea ever since they could remember and that their fathers before them had told them of these wolves, which would seem to dispose of the statement that they were formerly unknown.

 About fifteen years or so ago reports began to come in to the government in Seoul from various parts of the country of what many Koreans claimed was a hitherto unknown wolf. Much larger than the irrui, it was also much bolder and often attacked women and children. So serious was the pest that bounties were placed on the skins and in certain districts troops were detailed to hunt them down. Due to this activity they decreased rapidly for a time, but since the law restricting the use of firearms they have apparently been increasing again. I am unable to tell the technical names of these two kinds of wolves [page 36] nor can I describe them very accurately. Koreans tell me that the two wolves in the Zoo here are both small neuktai. At the time that they first made their appearance in the country or first attracted attention, whichever it was, the theory was advanced that they were large Siberian wolves, driven south by special conditions, climatic or otherwise, in Siberia. Since then I have heard both them and the irrui described as hyenas, jackals, wild-dogs, or any other name that came handy, none of which seemed to fit. In colour they are decidedly tawny, while as to their size the native reports are wild beyond belief, as is shown by the use of the word malseungyeungi or horse-wolf. I know of an authentic case however which shows the size that some of them attain. It seems that some years ago near Syenchun, a boy was bending over, working in the fields when a larger wolf stole out of the woods and seized him. Shouts and the approach of men working in another part of the field drove the beast off, and the boy, a good sized twelve year old, was hurried to Dr. Sharrocks who personally treated him and on whose word I have it that teeth marks from the upper jaw reached almost to the spinal column while those left by the lower jaw extended to the breast bone.

 The irrui, as far as I can learn, are much smaller, being about the size of an ordinary Korean dog and often travel in packs. I have never heard of more than one or two neuktai being seen at a time.

 The Koreans claim that on occasions the irrui and neuktai hunt together, the irrui acting as beaters and driving in the game which the neuktai then pulls down and kills. In the division of the spoils the neuktai takes his share first and then apportions the rest by weighing the irrui one by one in his jaws and giving out the meat according to the weight of each wolf. The man who told me this added that, while he had not witnessed this himself, he had heard it from credible sources. I hope you will say as much for me.

 With regard to the bears of which there are also two species we are a little better informed. These are the black bear [page 37] and the oriental brown bear, known respectively as Ursus tibetanus and Ursus arctos and are fairly common in this country. I have, however, seen no sign of polar bears or any valid reason for labelling an ordinary brown bear a polar bear or Ursus maritimus as has been done in the Seoul Zoo. In talking with Koreans about these animals, I learned that in the mountain districts of the north the natives use both snow-shoes and a kind of rude ski. They also told me the story of a bear and one of these Korean mul-pang-ors or water mills. It seems that the bear was attracted by the idea of using the grain in the mill for his breakfast. As he stooped to get it however the beam came down and struck him a heavy blow. He was annoyed and tried to return the blow only to find that the beam was up in the air beyond his reach. He stooped again, and again it came down and hit him. This time he was really angry and grabbing it, beat it soundly. But as the stream continued to flow it failed to learn a lesson and hit him again. This time he got hold of it and held it down. But not only did it take all his strength to hold it down, but when it was down, of course the grain was under it and out of his reach. In the end the faithful mill administered a lucky blow on the head and when he arrived on the scene the miller found not only his grain intact but a dead bear into the bargain.

 Last of all we come to the big cats, the leopards and tigers, The average Korean lumps them all under the expressive word “Poum.” On flags and screens, or gates and ceilings we are all familiar with the Korean tiger. Around him have gathered tales and superstitions that are well symbolized by the clouds of smoke and fire with which he is usually enveloped on gates and walls. In the good old days, which are so often thrown at us, his appearance always presaged disaster. In Wonsan, I believe, on cold nights you could meet him prowling on the streets. Last year one was seen at the North Gate of this city. Villagers tell of pigs, dogs and sometimes people carried off; and yet where is he? Seen in one village tonight, he kills in a village a hundred [page 38] li from there before daylight. It is this quality that particularly fills the average Korean with dread and awe. The tiger apparently has no particular haunts but ranges free from ridge to ridge, scaring the villagers in a dozen valleys with the rolling echo of his roar as he prowls. Great strength, ferocity, cunning, and many other qualities, real and imaginary, are attributed to him. But despite all this the natives have since time immemorial hunted him with their old matchlocks. Mr. Griffis said that the Koreans expressed the difference between the Korean gun and the modern rifle as “Bang! Wough! Dead hunter!” and “Bang! Bang! Bang! Dead Tiger,” The phraseology Mr. Griffis evidently got from a dime novel but the moral is the same. There was no second bang for the Korean. This tended to produce good shooting and cool nerves. You will remember that it was the tiger hunters who discomfitted the French and again it was the tiger hunters who stood to their guns to the last man and won the enduring admiration of our American blue-jackets who fought them.

 As to the animals themselves, Captain Cavendish mentions the Royal tiger and the Chinese Lauhu and stars them both. Of the leopards, he mentions three species, the Bulu, the Maou, and the snow leopard, starring the Maou. My own knowledge of the subject here, as in most instances, is almost nil and I have not been able to find anything on the matter in any available work. That the Royal Tiger, Felis tigris, is the ordinary large Korean tiger there can be no doubt. But as to what the Chinese Lauhu is and how it differs from the Royal tiger I do not know and have been unable to find out. Of the leopards I have been unable to find any data on either the Maou or the Bulu. Most of the works which I have been able to consult seem to have rather vague ideas on the subject of leopards in general, the size of the animals being put considerably smaller than many specimens that we have in Korea. The snow leopard is the same as the Himalayan ounce and is scientifically known as the Felis unica. It is smaller as a rule than the other leopards and of a greyish color instead of the tawny yellow of the leopard [page 39] skins with which we are all familiar. For this and other reasons I doubt very much whether the three leopards here in the Zoo are really snow leopards as they are labelled and am inclined to think that this labelling in due to the same carelessness which I instanced in the case of the bears. From what the Koreans tell me however, I am inclined to think that the snow-leopard is really to be found in Korea. The Koreans divide the “peum” under the following names: whangkaraymi, chikkaraymi and pyopeum. There are it is true, numerous other names in use but as far as I can ascertain they are merely synonyms for one or other of these three. The word “horaingi” is merely a general term and is used interchangeably with “peum.” The first two are said to be both tigers, the Koreans thus agreeing with Captain Cavendish that there are two kinds. The whangkaraymi is the largest of the peum and is said to be yellow with black stripes. The chikikaraymi on the other hand is not only smaller but the Koreans claim that instead of yellow being the predominant color the animal is more aptly described as black with yellow stripes. Whether this distinction really exists and is valid or not I do not know, but the Koreans stoutly maintain that it is not only the different appearance of individual members of the same family but that there are two distinct kinds of tigers. The leopards are lumped under the general name of pyo-peum or one of its synonyms, though some of the hunters have told me that there are several kinds of leopards but that they were all called pyo-peum. I myself have not had sufficient opportunity for observation to be able to say whether these divisions are in any way justified or not and can only offer them to you as I have received them from the Koreans.

 As to tiger hunting, the Koreans claim that it is impossible, unless by lucky chance, to shoot a “fresh tiger” as they call one that has not recently killed. He apparently haunts no one particular locality but wanders where he pleases in the wilder and more inaccessible mountains. It is said that in the course of these wanderings all good tigers visit at least once Sam-gak-san or Pouk-han. A country man who [page 40] knows and has seen nothing is compared to a tiger who hasn’t even seen Pouk-han. When a tiger has killed, the hunters gather and track him to the hills and note toward which peak he has gone. Knowing the habits of the beast and every inch of ground they can tell where he has probably laid up and then the beaters and hunters separate. In beating for tigers the natives claim that once he is started out of his cover he will invariably go up hill to the top of the tai-teung or main ridge and follow along it rather than go down hill and cross the hills diagonally as other game do. The hunter therefore takes his place behind an improvised screen of branches, on the ridge, usually near the top of a slight rise as he can then see the tiger as he comes down the opposite slope and has him below him when he fires. The beaters work much as for other game and apparently think no more of it than of beating for deer. When I asked if they were not afraid they told me that there was no danger as there was no such custom as for an unwounded tiger to attack the beaters, Personally I should think there might be one that refused to be bound by custom. The natives have stories which show an idea somewhat similar to our own of the effect of the steady gaze of the human eye on wild animals. Two of the men who were with me on my last trip were once out tiger hunting and wounded a large tiger. After reloading their guns and thawing the ice and snow on their feet they tracked him over the ridge and suddenly saw him behind a large fallen tree with only his head visible. He was about seventy yards down the hill and as they wanted to get to closer range one of them sat down and bracing his feet on the icy slope got a good rest for his gun over his knee and kept his eyes fixed on the tiger while the other man started slowly down the hill on one side of the ridge. For a minute or so all went well and the tiger, though he saw the man sitting there did nothing but lash his tail. Suddenly however the hunter’s foot slipped, he lost his balance and before he could recover himself the tiger was up the hill and had him by the foot. Fortunately the other hunter finished [page 41] the beast before serious damage was done. They firmly believe to this day that if the one man had been able to keep his eyes on the tiger and hold his gaze the other could have gotten to point blank range with perfect impunity. The story may be rather tall in several points but the idea is the same. It is not a matter that lends itself to investigation or experiment but is none the less interesting. Tales there are without number, the most grewsome of a hunt to kill the tiger that carried off the young wife of one of the hunter’s friends and to recover the remains; tales of unexpected encounters when both tiger and man turned tail and ran from each other; of tigers who hypnotize the hunters; tales of men literally scared almost to death and many others.

Before closing these few words which are merely an introduction to some of the larger animals of the country I should like to mention a few of the uses which the natives make of the blood, bones, fur and various organs of the body. Residents of Korea know that the blood of the deer is largely sought for medicine and men often go to the country and hire hunters so as to drink it warm. What is true of deer’s blood is true to a large extent of the blood of boar and goat and to a certain degree of many of the animals though I understand that none are supposed to be as good for this purpose as the deer. Deer’s horns in the velvet are in great demand as medicine and bring handsome prices per ounce, the sasim being hunted primarily for their horns. The noro horns are also used though not esteemed as highly as the saṡim’s. Beside the occasional use of boar’s blood, the long tough bristles on the back are used in making Korean hats and several other articles, while certain organs of the body, when dried and powdered, bring high prices. Bears are also more hunted for the medicinal value of certain parts of the body than for the skin, bones or flesh though these all bring fair prices. With the tigers and leopards the bones are almost if not quite as valuable as the skin and are exported to China where they are even more highly regarded in the preparation of drugs than here. [page 42]

 Of course, to-day there are practically no Korean hunters on account of the laws restricting the possession of fire-arms. That the requiring of a license and the limitation of the hunting season are both good measures, no one would attempt to deny, but as game laws the present regulations leave much to be desired. The hunting season lasts at least a month longer than it should, and, while a man must have a license to own a gun, trap or falcon, no license for hunting is required. The result is that in the spring when the deer are weakened by lack of food during the long winter, parties are made up and the sasim are tracked and run down without guns. The hills at this time are like glass on one side and heavy with mud on the other and when there is a constant pursuit that gives no time to stop and feed, the animals are usually run down in a week or less. Thus instead of increasing during this time of few hunters they are rapidly decreasing and are in danger of becoming extinct. Much the same is true of the musk-deer and certain other animals. The present law is apparently framed simply to restrict the use of fire arms and not at all with reference to the preservation of the game. Again in preserving and classifying the animals of the country the Zoological Gardens here have a great opportunity of which they are apparently not taking full advantage. Many common species are not to be found there and the classification has not been done with the care that might have been expected. No labels will transform ordinary bears into polar bears and the mere word cervus over a deer is, even though true, beautifully indefinite. It is to be hoped that when some of the many other improvements which the Goverment-general has undertaken are completed more attention will be turned to this department and that game preservation both in the Gardens and in the country at large will be properly handled. This time cannot, however, be put off indefinitely as each year thins the furred and feathered population of the land. But even before Governmental attention is turned to this subject a most interesting field is open to some one capable of dealing with it in the way it merits. Either with camera or gun a trip [page 43] into the country is its own reward. The kindly country folk, the air, the scenery, the long days on the hills, and the people crowding into the little rooms, in the evening, to tell and hear wondrous stories, all have an unmatched charm. Added to this that one can travel with all the luxuries of home and even the most critical could not complain. A glimpse of the people and their lives in the evenings and a glimpse of the animals and splendid scenery through the day, this is worth much.