

example have often declared that they did not see why they should not kill all the game in their own country themselves, before Government came and did it for them.

Game Fences.—The Conservator of Forests has reported that considerable success has been achieved in dissuading elephant, hippo, and buffalo from entering the younger areas of plantations near Katwe, in the game reserve, by the use of an electrified single-strand wire fence. It is also believed to have proved fairly successful as far as buck are concerned. With elephants it sometimes fails when a herd approached a fence, as although the front animals immediately stop they are sometimes rudely pushed through by the impatient beasts at the back!

THE PROTECTION OF THE AGRIMI FURTHER NOTES

By HUGH FARMAR

After my report¹ was in print I received Bulletin No. 6 of the Commission de la Chasse en Montagne dated the 21st July, 1952. This bulletin contains a very interesting section on the game of Greece and, in particular, a report by M. Georges Livas on the Cretan wild goat and the goats on the island of Ghyaros (Ghiura), in the Northern Sporades, and on the island of Antimilos.

Dealing first with the Cretan wild goat M. Livas states that since 1940 wartime conditions have prevented the Agricultural Service from estimating the numbers remaining, but that the stock is thought to number several hundreds. He goes on to say that to stop poaching the service of the Ministry of Agriculture has decided upon and has already put into effect stringent measures of protection and has instituted a system of substantial rewards for anyone who reports acts of poaching and the names of those responsible. I think it only proper to state that, neither in the region of the White Mountains where the wild goats survive nor elsewhere in Crete, did I in mid-June find evidence or hear of any hint of protective measures having been taken. Nor has M. Santorineos, the secretary of the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature, mentioned anything of the sort in subsequent correspondence.

¹ "The Protection of the Agrimi," *Oryx*, Vol. 1, No. 7.

While I should be glad to be corrected, I rather fear that M. Livas may have reported, accurately enough, statements made to him by officials, of proposals which in fact have not progressed beyond the paper stage. However, it is at least encouraging to hear that the Ministry is sensible of the danger to the Cretan wild goat; and I hope that with a little encouragement it may be persuaded to put its plans into practice.

While in Crete I heard nothing to indicate the existence of any wild goats anywhere in the island except those mentioned in my report. The only statements which I have come across, of their presence on Mount Ida (mentioned as a habitat by M. Livas) and Mount Dicte, are at least fifty years old; and I am afraid that the animals have long been extinct in those localities. My uncle, Major-General G. J. Farmar, who sought them in 1897-98 on Mount Ida, tells me that he was unable to find any trace.

M. Livas' report in no other way affects the substance of my report or, I think, my recommendations.

As regards the wild goats on the island of Ghyaros (Ghiura), M. Livas' report is extremely interesting and he gives an encouraging picture of what can be achieved in Greece in the way of preservation and, in that case, hunting under licence. I would refer those interested for details to M. Livas' admirable report. A number of the goats on Ghyaros are known to be feral.

M. Livas states that the goats on Antimilos number about three hundred head. With this please compare the information in my report derived from M. Santorineos.

I have heard from my correspondent, M. Manoussakis, in Crete that M. Santormeos will be visiting the White Mountains in February.