

NEW ANTELOPES AT THE N. Y. ZOOLOGICAL PARK.

BY J. CARTER BEARD.

It is by no means an easy matter to assign their proper place in the animal kingdom or to determine what really constitutes an antelope. In looking for the origin and the derivation of the word itself, we are led back through the Latin and the Greek to the old Coptic word *pantholops*, from which was derived *antholops* (*Ανθόλοψ*) the name in later Greek for the fabled unicorn. As this mythical animal has been determined to be nothing more than a distorted idea of a gazelle, it ought perhaps to follow that the particular sub-family, *Gazellinae*, to which the twenty-three known species of gazelles belong, should be that to which alone the term antelope should be applied, if it is employed in any restrictive or definable way. The name, however, has been extended to embrace all ruminants in which the horns are hollow at the base, set upon solid cones, and are permanently retained throughout the life of the animal, as well as some others in which this does not occur. No better opportunity has ever been given in this country to see for one's self the different members of this family, from the pygmy Dwykerbok antelope to the ox-like eland, and from our own aberrant type, the American pronghorn antelope, to the still more aberrant giraffe, than is now given by the incomparable collection of antelopes at the New York Zoological Park.

The completion of the antelope house marks the fruition in part of purposes and ambitions entertained many years ago by the present very competent director and manager, Mr. W. T. Hornaday.

"Ever since the opening day of the park," writes Mr. Elwin R. Sanborn, "the temptation to secure some of the interesting antelopes now becoming so rare has been difficult to resist. But the futility of this desire, until suitable quarters could be provided, was so strikingly exemplified by the perplexing task encountered in the care of a few tropical deer through the winter, that no other argument for its abandonment was necessary.

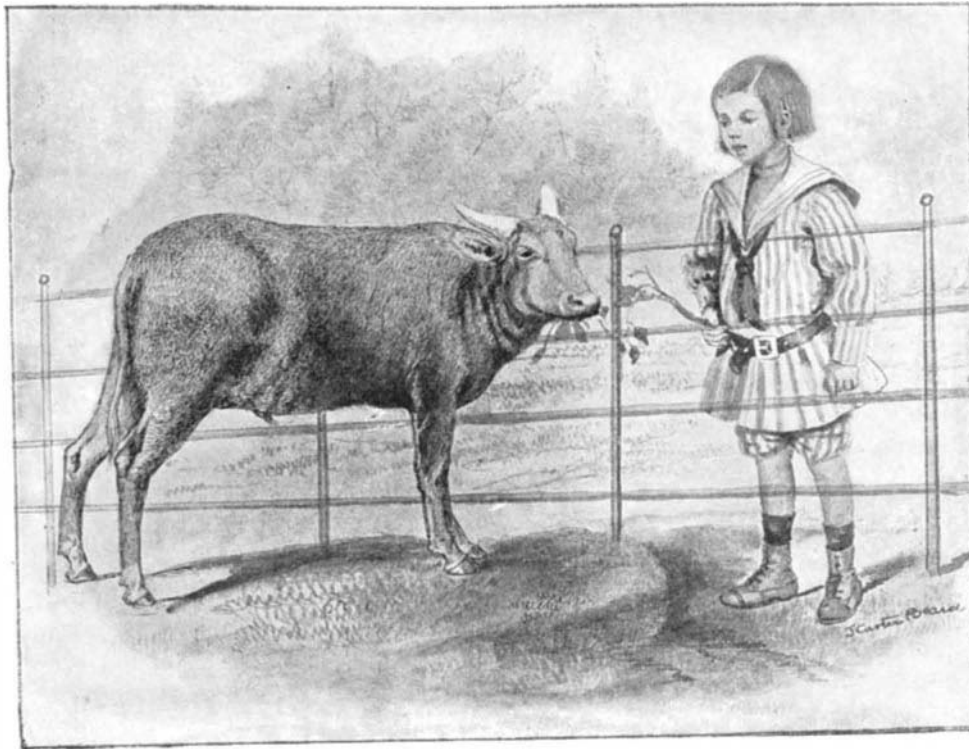
"The new antelope house was in consequence built, and 'opened to the public,' with every stall occupied, the Society subscribing the entire list of specimens, amounting in round numbers to fifteen thousand dollars." The list of antelopes on exhibition is a long one. The SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN has already published descriptions of several of the rarer sort, together with pictures of the animals; but there remain many others quite as worthy of notice. Among the most singular types in some respects are the water antelopes. There are five allied species, of which the Sing-sing antelope, a fine specimen of which is to be seen at the park, is a representative.

It scarcely carries out our idea of an antelope, being a rather heavily-built animal, which, instead of presenting the sleek, glossy, appearance of other members of its family, is clothed with a coat of long, soft, loose, and flocculent hair, longer upon the neck than elsewhere, but not forming a mane. The color is grayish brown. The males alone carry horns. These in the adult individual are lyre-shaped, and covered almost to the tips with bony rings. The animal exhales an odor, and the flesh is so powerfully scented and of so bad a flavor as to be entirely uneatable, a circumstance which will go far to preserve the species from becoming exterminated, long after its congeners have disappeared forever from the face of the earth. The natives, we are told, tame these antelopes, and allow them to run with their cattle (in much the same way as we keep a goat in the stable) because the animal is supposed to bring good luck and ward off disease.

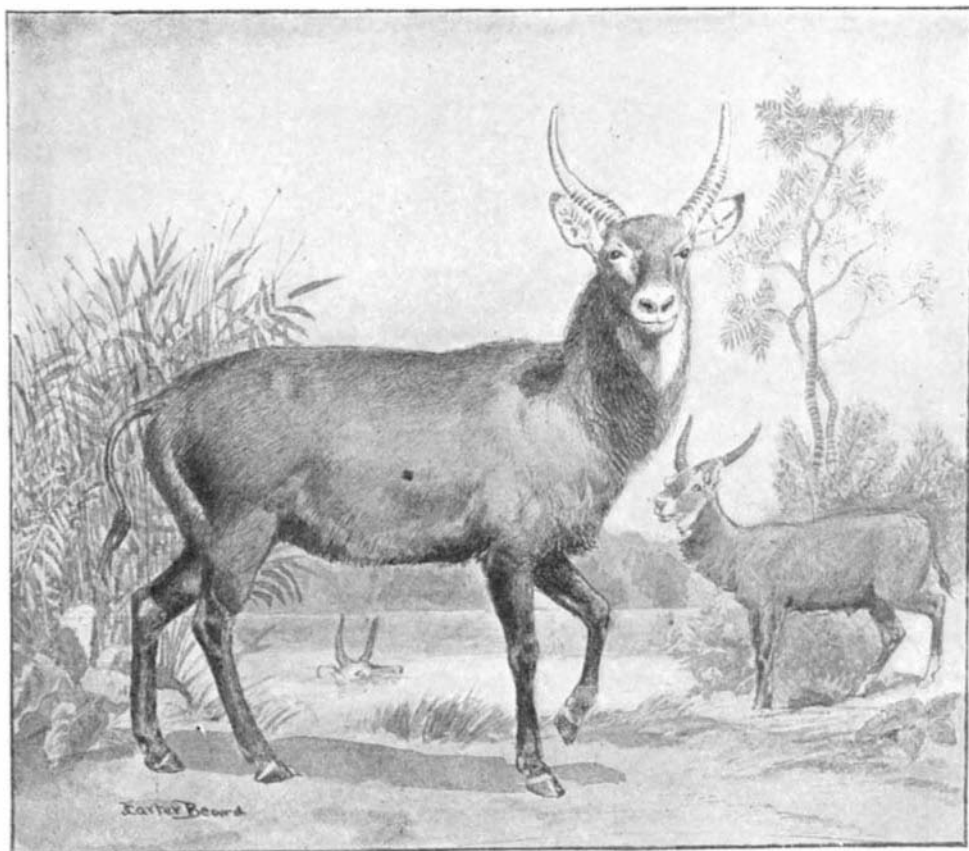
Sing-sing antelopes abound in marshy districts on the banks of lakes and rivers in central and western Africa. If disturbed, they invariably make for the water at full speed. In this way they escape lions and leopards, who in common with other cats are reluctant to take to the water, but they cannot get away from

the natives, who pursue them in boats, which they paddle faster than these antelopes can swim.

An animal rare even in the range of country it inhabits is Baker's roan antelope (*Hippotragus equinus*). The first of its species ever brought to America is a remarkable-looking creature. Its large, singularly shaped ears, stiff, upright mane, and peculiarly-marked face distinguish it from any of its congeners. It is a big animal, too, standing over four feet and a half high at the shoulders. The horns of the male have been known to grow to a length of three feet and a half, measured along the curve. It is a rare animal even on its range, which extends from central south Africa to Senegal. It is quite possible, considering the rapidly-approaching extinction of African antelopes, that this is the only member of its species that will ever be seen in this country.



Little Anoa Bull or Antelope Buffalo at the New York Zoological Park.



The Sing-Sing or Water Antelope.

ANTELOPES AT THE NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

In view of the fact that the curious little anoa has been adopted, along with the other inhabitants of the Philippine Islands, as a citizen of the "Greater United States," the specimens at the New York Zoological Park assume an additional interest.

Although the anoa is ranked among ungulates with the oxen, and more particularly with the buffaloes, it has so many features in common with the antelope that it is sometimes called the antelope buffalo. It is a veritable pygmy, being when full grown, according to Mr. Hornaday, two feet nine inches high at the shoulders. "We have," says the last-mentioned gentleman in writing to me, "three specimens at the park, two full-grown males and a female, the latter immature. These little creatures take kindly to captivity in zoological gardens, and breed with fair regularity. Two of those that we have are quite docile, but the

third, a full-grown male, was once so savage that for nearly a year he was bent on killing something or somebody. The creature is quite cow-like in form, but its horns most nearly resemble the horns of the harnessed antelope of Africa, except that they are not twisted. The color is a rich, chocolate brown, becoming dark with age. Celebes is the home of the specimens which we have."

The species which inhabits the Philippines (*Bos mindorensis*) is called tamarao. "It stands," writes Richard Lydekker, "three and a half feet in height. The horns, though massive, are comparatively short and rise upward in the plane of the face with a lyrate curvature; they are distinctly triangular, with the largest face in front, and are somewhat roughened. In its massive form, thick legs, and uniform coloration this species comes nearer to the Indian buffalo than to the anoa."

It may be added that, as far at least as the anoa of Celebes is concerned, the animal seems to occupy a place almost exactly half way between the antelopes and the oxen. "It approximates to the antelopes," writes Lydekker, "in its slender build, the structure of the hinder parts of its skull, the upright direction and the straightness of its horns, the spots on its head, back, and limbs, and its small size."

Lloyd's, and What It Means.

Lloyd's dates from the latter part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and had its origin in a small coffee house in Tower Street, kept by Edward Lloyd. He was an enterprising man, and through his business contact with seafaring men and merchants enlisted in foreign trade, foresaw the importance of improving shipping and the method of marine insurance. He was the founder of the system of maritime and commercial intelligence which has been developed into its present effectiveness. Before the time of Edward Lloyd maritime insurance in England was conducted by the Lombards, some Italians, who founded Lombard Street, but after Lloyd embarked in the business Britons conducted marine insurance in London.

The subjects of marine insurance are the ship, the cargo, and the freight, all of which may belong to different parties. In time of war there is what is termed the maritime risk—the danger from accident, collision, and stranding—which is distinctly separate from the risk of capture and seizure by an enemy. This class of marine insurance had its inception in the conditions arising during the seven-year French-English war of 1757 to 1763.

Lloyd's moved to Pope's Head Alley in 1770, and in 1774 removed to the present quarters in the Royal Exchange. In 1871 Lloyd's was incorporated by act of Parliament. This act defined the objects of the society to be: (1) The carrying on of the business of marine insurance by members of the society; (2) the protection of the interests of members of the society in respect of shipping, cargoes, and freights; (3) the collection, publication, and diffusion of intelligence and information with respect to shipping.

The corporation of Lloyd's and the committee of Lloyd's, who are the executive body of the corporation, and the secretary of Lloyd's, have practically nothing to do with marine insurance in the way of taking risks or paying losses. Their duty in this respect is to afford marine insurance brokers who wish to effect insurances a place of meeting with those who undertake the risks.

A new substitute for nickel, called "Patrick metal," is being placed upon the English market. The feature of this metal is that it is silver-white right through, and retains its bright appearance permanently. The luster does not tarnish with use—in fact, it becomes brighter. It retains a high degree of polish, and will not rust even under the most unfavorable conditions, nor oxidize easily. It is malleable when cold and can be easily soldered or brazed.