



Photo by Sir F. J. Jackson.



NEST OF THE LAKE VICTORIA LUNG FISH.

AFRICAN LUNG FISH

BY SIR F. J. JACKSON

Two photographs of the nests of the lung fish are forwarded, in the belief that they may prove of interest to the readers of the JOURNAL.

The Central African Lung Fish (*Protopterus Ethiopicus*) is known to the Baganda as 'Maruba,' and is very plentiful in the Victoria Nyanza. It is often seen on a calm day when the water is quite smooth, with its nose and part of its head protruding above the surface for the purpose of breathing, and occasionally it opens its mouth as if it were in the act of yawning.

In August of last year I came across the two nests in question, situated in a vast swamp at the head of a bog near Entebbe. This swamp runs for many miles inland, and it separates the island of Bussi from the mainland. Across it there is a channel of open water some twenty-five feet in width, cut by the natives and kept open by the daily canoe traffic with the island. The water in this channel is only two to three feet in depth, but the mud formed by rotting vegetation is so deep that the bottom cannot be reached with a pole ten feet long. In a small canoe it is possible to paddle and push with a forked pole to almost any part of this swamp. With caution and the aid of a pole, it is even possible to wade about in it, but the occupation is too distracting for nature study, and it is not to be recommended. Irishmen would, I believe, readily admit that walking a quaking bog is child's play to it.

The nests were evidently of recent construction. They were both situated in a patch of coarse grass, were circular in shape, with a diameter of about two and a half to three feet, and about eighteen inches in depth. The water within the circle was quite clear. The sides were vertical, and were, no doubt, retained in that position and prevented from subsiding by a matted network of the fine grass roots. On the roots there

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was a deposit of fine mud particles, so susceptible to the slightest movement of the water, caused by inserting the hand, or even a reed, that it became turbid and prevented further observation. The most remarkable features of the constructions were the outer rings of mud. These were raised about an inch above the water level, and were about four to five inches in width, and had more the appearance of being the work of man than a fish. The mud did not appear to have been pushed up from below, but to have been deposited from above and then smoothed down, the surface being firm and shiny. It is, I believe, not impossible that the mud was brought to the surface in the mouths of the fishes, and then smoothed down by their flattened, slimy, eel-like tails.

ENTEBBE, *May* 1914.

THE ALLEGED DESICCATION OF EAST AFRICA

BY C. W. HOBLEY, C.M.G.

This question has been the subject of considerable verbal discussion in the country itself, but very little has been written on it. The evidence for the alleged desiccation of the globe was, however, the subject of a recent learned paper by Prof. J. W. Gregory in the *Geographical Journal* for March 1914, and it has occurred to me that it would be useful to record the evidence on the subject which has come to my notice in British East Africa and other places on the east side of the continent.

Generally speaking, it is believed that very marked evidence is available that considerable desiccation of this part of the continent has taken place from late Tertiary times down to the present day. To commence at the coast, it is undoubtedly the fact that the whole of the coast-line from the German border to, say, Kismayu shows undoubted signs of elevation in recent times. Take Mombasa island, for instance; one there finds the recent coral reefs raised to a height of 70 feet