

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

I.—OCCURRENCE OF THE LION IN PERSIA.

When I called to see you on my way through Bombay about a year ago, I mentioned that one of the surveyors working in S.-W. Persia recently had seen a lion. I promised to send you a few more details. Here they are:—

On 22nd May 1942 Jemadar Lal Khan, belonging to an Indian Field Survey Company engaged on survey work in S.-W. Persia, saw a lion about 40 miles north-west of Dizful. He had a squad of two signallers and four sepoy with him at the time and they all saw it. As the animal was only about 80 yards away I do not think that there was much chance of its identity being mistaken. In addition to his own men Jemadar Lal Khan had three local policemen with him belonging to the Persian gendarmerie.

The Jemadar described the lion as about 5 feet in length from the nose to the base of the tail, and greyish-yellow in colour. It had no mane. He reported that he 'shot at it but could not hit it'.

I think that it was near this place that the late Sir Arnold Wilson saw a lion a few years before the last war. I would be interested to hear whether any other lions have recently been reported from this area. So far as I know no others were seen by troops of the Persia-Iraq Force, up to the time of my leaving the Force last Spring.

SURVEY OF INDIA,
MURREE.

December 30, 1943.

G. F. HEANEY,
Lt.-Col.

[It would appear that lions still occur in the wild and mountainous region around Dizful in South-west Persia. The last-reported occurrence from this area was that made by a party of American Engineers in 1930 and recorded in this *Journal* (Vol. xxxv, No. 3, p. 672).—Eds.]

II.—TIGER CLAW MARKS ON TREES.

With reference to the note on the above subject by Major R. C. Morris on page 656 of the *Journal*, Vol. xliii, No. 4, I wish to record that as Dunbar Brander has observed in his book, *The Wild Animals in Central India*, it is a habit of tigers to sharpen or clean their claws on trees. But Dunbar Brander qualifies this habit 'to be more an individual peculiarity constantly practised, rather than a general habit occasionally practised, as where the marks on trees are seen they are usually numerous and made by the same animal whereas miles of jungle containing tigers may be devoid of all signs of the habit'. I have very often observed the tigers kept in the zoo at Trivandrum, when let out from their cages into an adjoining spacious open-air arena (securely enclosed by high iron



Heaney, G F. 1944. "Occurrence of the Lion in Persia." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 44, 467–467.

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