

A NOTE ON THE CROWNED EAGLE (*SPIZAETUS
CORONATUS*).

By J. T. OULTON.

A party of my men sent to the top of the escarpment in the direction of the Cherangani to try and shoot wild dogs and do some poisoning have now returned from this second effort. No success with the dogs but immense numbers of hyaenas poisoned.

They also failed to recover the skull of the reputed white hyaena : presumably it has been taken by the other hyaenas.

During their first trip they received complaints of a huge bird which had killed a young dog, several goat kids, and five fowls, and taken all to its nest. They were urged to do something about it and so they poisoned several pieces of meat and the owner of the lost fowls and goat kids undertook to climb the high trees and place the poisoned meat in the nest. As he was climbing the tree the bird suddenly appeared out of the distance and "zoomed" down on to the man's back embedding its claws in and tearing his shirt and continuously flapping and beating its wings against the man's back. With a frightened yell the man let go his hold of the tree and dropped to the ground and at the same time the bird released its hold of his shirt and flew off.

On their return I sent an additional man who could use a shot gun and they learnt that the bird had killed other goat kids and more fowls. They first obtained the services of a man noted for his ability in climbing trees and after he had fixed up a ladder system and thus visited the nest they patiently waited for the bird to put in an appearance and then shot it. After skinning it they rubbed in some salt. They also brought away the two eggs from the nest and these I have not ventured to blow. There is a possibility that they might hatch out.

On the boys overtaking me some three days afterwards I found a small number of maggots had invaded the skin and I have since dressed it daily with methylated spirit.

These men also shot a baboon known to have killed and eaten a good number of goat kids.