PECULIARITY OF FALLOW DEER—MIGRATIONS OF THE SPRINGBOK.

THE FALLOW DEER

Is between the roe and the stag in size. The horns are not divided into branches, but spread out broad and flat (see Plate x., a). In colour the fallow deer vary, some being dark brown with lighter spots, others reddish, others of a pale fawn tint. The doe is without horns, and the buck, like the stag, has a new pair every year, each pair larger than the last, till he has attained his full growth. The duration of the fallow deer's life is from fifteen to twenty years. His flesh is preferred to that of the stag, being more tender and better flavoured. In England large herds of fallow deer are kept in parks, where they range about at full liberty, allowing strangers to approach to a certain distance, and then bounding away with great quickness, and turning, after a time, to gaze at the intruder. Generally the deer in a park form into various herds, which feed separately, each herd chasing away any intruders from one or the others who may seek to associate with them. Not unfrequently, combats occur between the various herds; but the fallow deer is not nearly so pugnacious as the stag, who, so far as his own kind are concerned, is exceedingly given to brawling and fighting. The fallow deer, like the stag, has two remarkable holes or slits under its eyes, through which it is said to draw in the air, as through the nostrils; and this is the more probable as, in drinking, it thrusts its nose deeply into the water, keeping the nostrils immersed for a long time. A breed of fallow deer, that has flourished greatly in England, was introduced by James I., who brought some specimens home from Norway, when he returned from the famous journey during which he married Anne of Denmark.

THE SPRING BUCK or SPRINGBOK (Plate ix., d)

Is one of many kinds of antelopes found in South Africa. These creatures exists in vast numbers in the great uninhabited plains at the back of Cape Colony, where they roam across the country in herds of many thousands. The springbok takes its name from the agility with which, when pursued or alarmed, it jumps from crag to crag, or flies in long leaps across the plain. And, indeed, the swiftness with which the springbok and the other Cape antelopes are endowed is necessary for their very existence, for flight is their sole defence against the many enemies who lie in wait for them. The colonists shoot them down in numbers: they are the favourite food of the lion and other beasts of prey lurking in the thicket; and even the hyena pursues them, and drags many a victim from their flocks. But, on the other hand, these antelopes exist in so many varieties, and in such vast numbers, that the attacks of all their enemies seem powerless to reduce their mass in any great degree. Sparmann, the African traveller, speaks of two thousand who all came down at once to drink at the same well. Vaillant, a French naturalist, while travelling in the wilds in the rear of Cape Colony, found himself encircled by a vast herd of antelopes, all travelling southward in search of fresh pastures and running streams; for one of the droughts which frequently occur in Southern Africa had burned up the grass on which they fed, and dried up the rivers. He estimated their numbers at no fewer than fifty thousand. These migrations of the antelopes are sometimes a source of great annoyance and loss to the colonists; for the little intruders break into fields and gardens, eating up "every green thing" with the perseverance and rapacity of a swarm of locusts. These antelopes are graceful in form. Their colour is generally a light brown. The males have small horns, the females none. Their flesh is agreeable and wholesome, and of their skins many articles of clothing are made. Thus the colonists and natives are well recompensed for the occasional depredations of the antelopes in their search after food.