

LIFE ON LUNDY IN 1857

Extract from—

'LIFE OF JAMES CLARKE HOOK, R.A.'

BY

HIS SON, ALLAN J. HOOK (1929)

1857. 'Though my father was now in the very midst of the inland country subjects that seemed simply to await being painted, there was no chance of his forgetting the favourable reception of the pictures he had exhibited this year, all of which were subjects from the sea coast. As soon as we were fairly settled at Hambledon, he set off for Clovelly. This time he went alone. He had rarely gone away into the country alone before, and then only for short distances. Now for some reason my mother could not accompany him. From Clovelly he went over to Lundy Island, and stayed a short time, living in the lighthouse from which he wrote :

"We had a quick run over, heavy ground sea and nice little breeze. I am quite delighted ('cus' this needle of a pen) with the lodgings here . . . room for you and brats and servants, two (too ?), if you like and a fine open down all round the house with the Atlantic one side and all the Devonshire coast from Linton to Cornwall on the other. Mr Welch seems a very nice fellow and Mrs W. is now getting breakfast for Roland Oretop and myself. Roland pounced on me directly I arrived in Clovelly and I engaged him as the young rogue said that Johnny Cruse was engaged with his father. When poor Johnny heard of this he 'busted' out a crying this cost me a shilling as I' weak about boys. Kiss my two and tell Allan that a fine Shoveller duck wh' flew against the light and killed himself is on the table before me tell him (Allan) to look into Bewicks waterbirds for the Shoveller duck—breakfast is ready . . . some Lundy eggs Puffin eggs, for breakfast tell Allan . . . done breakfast murre's eggs are delicious and gulls eggs very good . . ."

Note.—In Devonshire the name Murre is applied indifferently to both the razor-bill and the guillemot. Therefore the eggs referred to might be those of either kind of bird.—A.J.H.

But he was soon back at Hambledon. Living and painting without his wife's companionship and help he had found miserable work, and yet there was at Lundy a subject he wanted to paint—that perhaps he had already begun.

This year there was a good deal of scarlet fever at Clovelly, and that my brother and I should go with our parents was out of the question. So we were sent with the nurse to stay with some relations and my father and mother went off to Clovelly and thence by the old "Ranger"—the trawler that acted as lighthouse tender and carried on such communication as there was between Lundy and the mainland. There they stayed in the lighthouse, and my father

painted on the cliffs with his wife to help him. It was a wonderfully interesting experience ; to my father, a naturalist and lover of birds, especially.

At the time I am writing of the little community on the Island were very much cut off from the world. Most of the modern means of communicating intelligence to a distance were then unthought of. Even flag-signalling was not much developed or practised. If the people on the Island wanted the "Ranger" to come over for some urgent reason they lighted a bonfire. If a doctor was to be brought, they lighted two, then the doctor would drive eleven miles from Bideford to Clovelly, and as soon as possible the "Ranger" would take him across.

At that time, as for many years afterwards, the Heaven family were the owners of the Island, and made their home on it. They treated my father and mother with the hospitality they always showed, so that they and the newcomers were soon friends. With the work at Lundy finished, my father and mother were soon back at Hambledon, and there was time to think of the inland subjects that were so ready to hand, and two were painted which appeared in the Academy Exhibition of 1858: "Children's children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children are their fathers," and "A Pastoral". Along with these was the fruit of the Lundy expedition "The Coast-boy gathering eggs".

A REPORT ON THE ENDOPARASITES FOUND ON LUNDY, 1956-57

BY BARBARA COLE (*nee* Morris)

This is a short account of some of the results of the work done on parasites on Lundy from September 1956 to September 1957. Collection of material over this period was continuous except for the months of December and January.

Parasites from vertebrate hosts, mainly birds, comprised fourteen species of fluke, fourteen species of tapeworm and nineteen species of roundworm. In addition, one or two examples of spiny-headed worms were found, but not identified. None of these parasites was a new discovery, but there were several new records made, both of the occurrence of a parasite in a particular host and its occurrence in this country. Most of these records were made among the flukes.

Invertebrate hosts, the great majority of them marine molluscs, were examined in far greater numbers, since they were much more easily obtainable. In the collection and examination of these hosts, several projects were borne in mind. First there was the identification of the various larval parasites found in these hosts, but besides this