

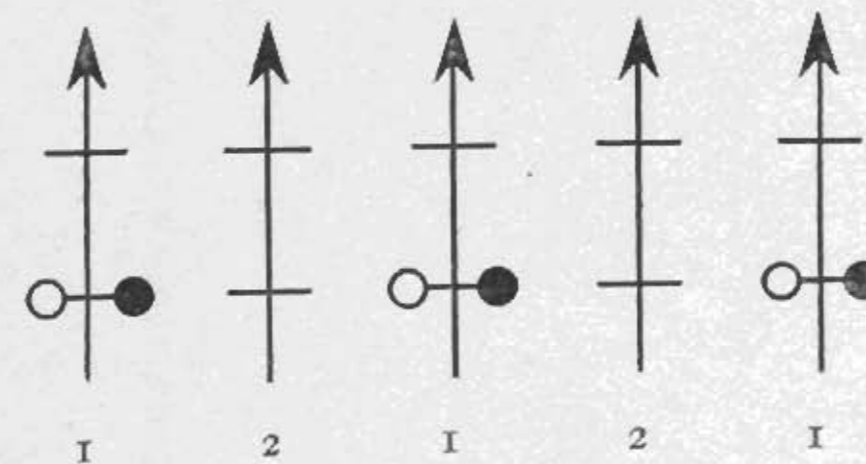
THE RICOCHET.

It is a curious fact that no one word in the English language has hitherto been applied to the system of progressive motion adopted by that class of animal, of which the kangaroo is the best known representative.

When we speak of the "walk" or the "gallop" of a horse we immediately associate with it the precise movement of the animal to which the word refers. The rapid motion of the wallaby, or the kangaroo, however, we have been accustomed to recognize only as a *series* or a *succession* of "bounds," "hops," "leaps," "jumps," or "skips;" this is the Australian practice of describing the movement. As no one of the words quoted suggests of itself the idea of continuous progress, and it being desirable that this system of locomotion should have some definite name, the author has drawn upon the military vocabulary for one. The word "ricochet" has long been in use by artillerists as a name for the skipping or bounding action of a projectile over the surface of the land or the water, and there seems no good reason why it should not be equally applicable to the skipping or bounding action of the kangaroo. It is preferable to employ an already well-recognized word for a similar movement—although of an inanimate object—than either to construct a new one, or to continue to

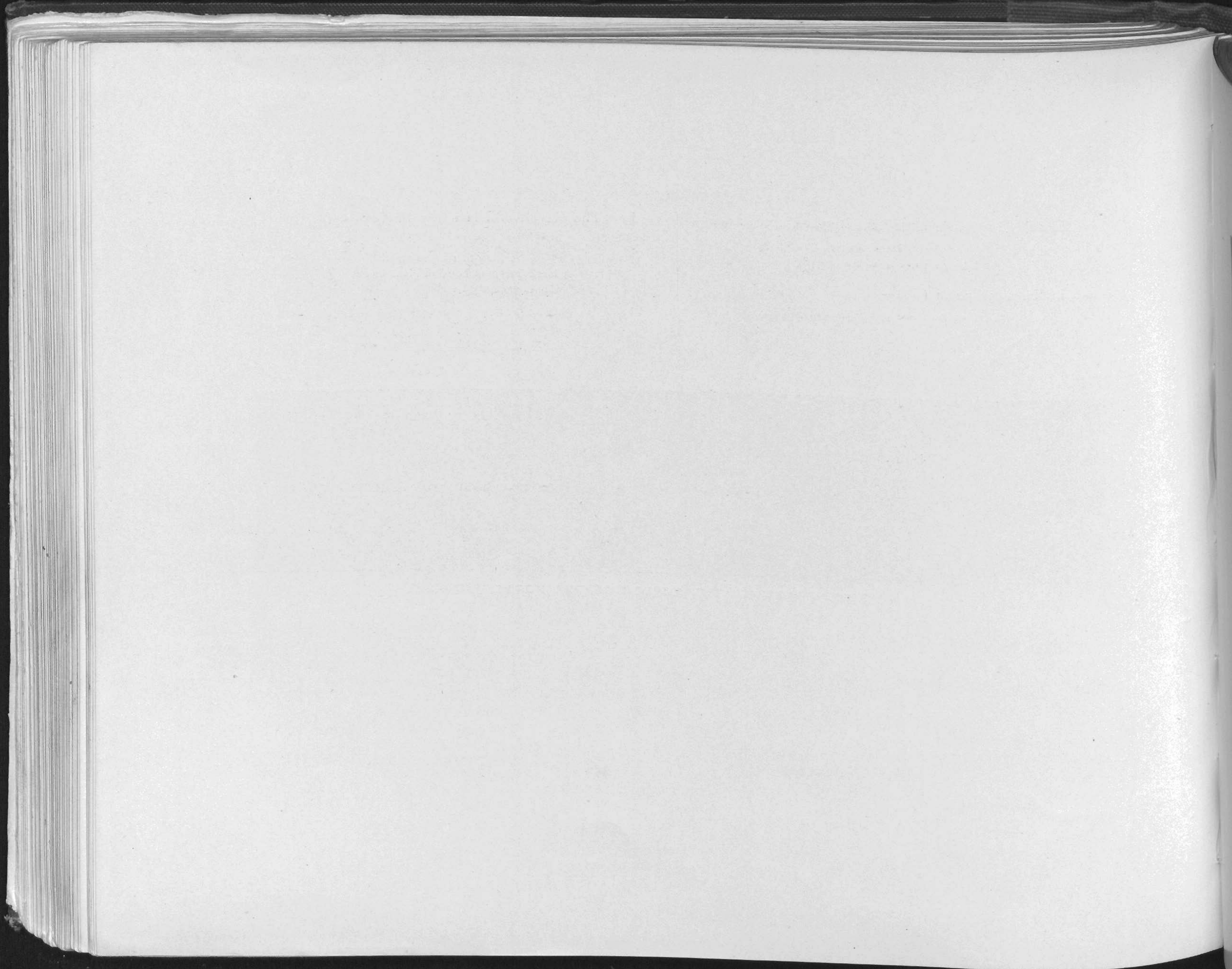
use the combination of words hitherto necessary for distinguishing the motion. In this instance it would perhaps be advisable to Anglicize the word and give it the phonetic spelling of "rikosha."

It is the most simple of all methods of quadrupedal progress, and may be diagrammatically represented as—

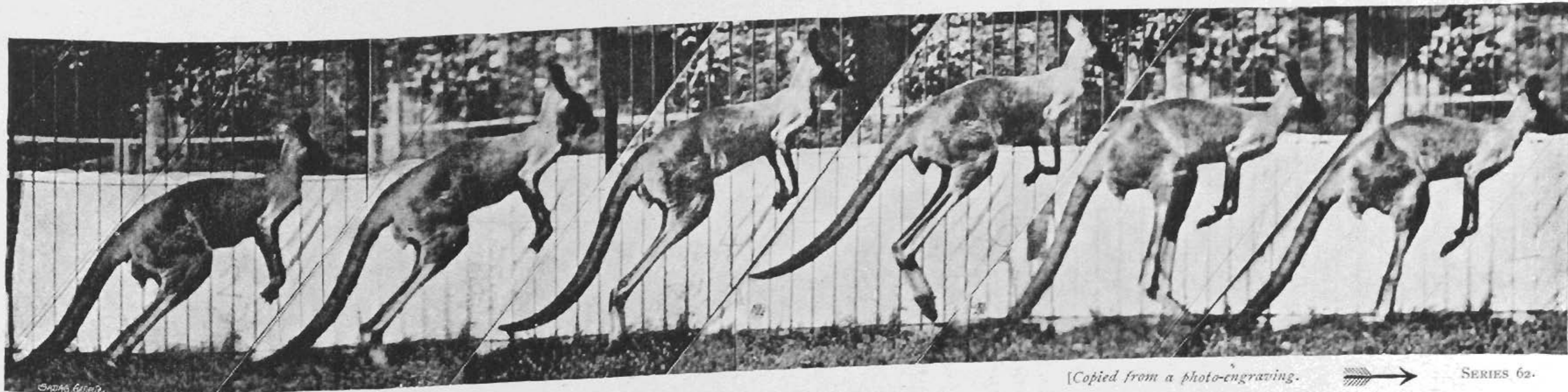


The action of the powerful tail of the kangaroo is not here recorded. It is, however, an important factor in its motion, it being brought in contact with the ground nearly simultaneously with the heel, and then effectively used to assist in the propulsion through the air.


Series 62 illustrates one stride of the ricochet made by a large-sized animal; and series 63 the commencement of a stride from a progress on all the four feet; to which latter movement it may be convenient, if not strictly correct, to apply the term "walk."



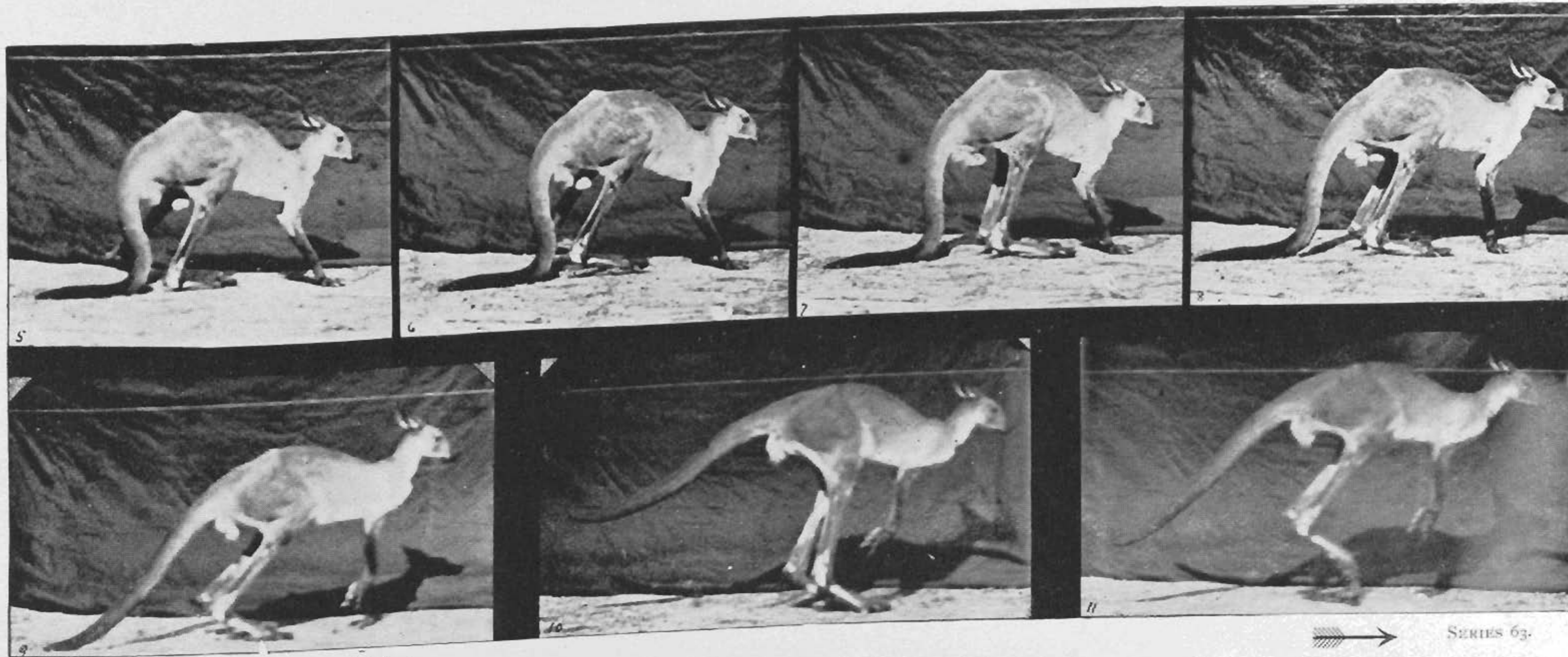
THE RICOCHET.



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[Copied from a photo-engraving.  SERIES 62.

ONE STRIDE NEARLY COMPLETED.



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 SERIES 63.

THE COMMENCEMENT OF A STRIDE.

The Kangaroo.

