

The female Rhinoceros: successful Removal of her Horn.—Some time back I published a brief notice of a peculiar infirmity of the female Indian rhinoceros at the Zoo (Zool. S. S. 2341), namely, that her horn was loose and toppled forward, so as to come into contact with her nose: this irritated the part against which it rested, eventually causing a sore, which seemed to render the beast wretched and ill-tempered. A consultation among the authorities took place, and it was decided that amputation of the horn was the only remedy: and Mr. Bartlett undertook and has accomplished the difficult task. The idea of entering the den was not to be entertained for a moment: it would be impossible for an operator, however skilful, however daring, to do this with safety. Mr. Bartlett saw at once that the feat must be effected from the outside, and that the strategy of a Moltke would be required for its accomplishment: he has proved himself equal to the occasion. A long and diligent study of the characters of animals in confinement had convinced him that kindness would do a great deal, and also that a kind of mesmeric conquest can be gained over them by friction; a parrot always enjoys having her poll rubbed, and a pig can be prostrated by scratching his back with the end of a stick. Mr. Bartlett determined on his course of action, and no sooner was this resolved on than he entered on his campaign: first he fed the creature every day with cakes and buns; then, inducing her to come to the bars while engaged in the discussion of these dainties, he rubbed her face continuously with his hands: from the first her eyes were shut during the rubbing process, and she exhibited every symptom of intense enjoyment. The next step was to accustom her to the action—a saw, and for this purpose, while still in a state of coma, a rough stick was introduced and was rubbed backwards and forwards on the horn with a sawing motion: this also was taken in good part; the huge creature seemed highly to appreciate the additional attention. The enemy was thus virtually conquered: as there is no apparent sensation in the horn, there was no apprehended danger of causing pain. So a time for the operation was agreed on, a well-set saw was procured, and everything prepared. In the morning Mr. Bartlett renewed his blandishments; the creature came with the utmost docility to receive them, and the surgical operation was commenced and continued until the horn was cut three parts through, when she discovered that something unusual was going on. Then she grunted loudly to show her displeasure, and the saw was instantly withdrawn: being under no restraint she rushed from the front of the den and ran round and round, emitting a series of angry snorting grunts. It is presumed that the almost total severance of the horn caused it to press against the sore on the nose, and hence the exhibition of temper on the part of her ladyship. The operator was now completely nonplussed, and discontinued his labour, postponing his task *sine die*, when by good fortune the creature by her restlessness managed, somehow or other, I will not say exactly how, to break

through the unsawn portion of the horn, which fell to the ground, a weight of eight pounds and a half. The state of the under surface of the horn showed how necessary the operation had become; the sore on the nose was found to be a serious affair, but is now rapidly healing, and the thanks of all naturalists are due to Mr. Bartlett for having so skilfully accomplished a most difficult and dangerous task.—*Edward Newman.*

Spring Arrivals in Guernsey.—On the 9th of April I heard a cuckoo; one had been seen the day before in the same place, and there was a report of their having been seen some days before. I did not hear it till the 13th, when I heard it several times on the cliffs. Here it is supposed that the cuckoo does not begin to sing till about twelve days after the "mackerel bird" has arrived: this bird, which I heard on the 5th of April, is known under many names here, as "cuckoo's mate," "cuckoo pilot," &c., but under the name of wryneck it is not known at all. On the 23rd of March I saw two wheatears: is not this rather early for them? On the 13th of April two ruffs were brought to me by Mr. Cook: I do not know what day they were shot, but it must have been but a short time before, as they do not keep long in this weather, and they were still fresh. They were apparently young birds, in change of plumage; neither had the ruff. One had yellow legs, the other greenish. I think one is a reeve.—*C. B. Carey; Candie, Guernsey.*

Spring Arrivals in Nottinghamshire.—Chiffchaff and willow wren, at Ramsdale, March 29. Wheatear, at Ramsdale, March 30. Sand martin, at Wilford, April 2. House swallow, at Ramsdale, April 3. Yellow wagtail, at Ramsdale, April 19.—*J. Whitaker, jun.; Ramsdale House, Notts.*

Spring Arrivals at Bury.—I heard the note of the wryneck at Elmswell, about two miles from here, on the morning of the 1st instant. The note was repeated several times, so I have not the slightest doubt on the matter. This is the earliest arrival of this bird I ever knew here, where it rarely appears before the 8th or 10th.—*T. G. Tuck; Tostock House, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, April 6, 1872.*

Arrival of Spring Migrants.—*Swallow.*—First seen on the 2nd of April, a fine day, thermometer 49° at 9 A.M. No more swallows observed until the 8th. In the 'Times' of March 13, the Rev. F. O. Morris announces the appearance of a swallow on the 8th of the month, and he remarks that swallows are recorded as having been seen every month in the year; but this is contrary to my experience, though I have been a close observer of their habits and migration for some thirty years, and no one could have been better placed for carrying on these observations. A reference to the pages of the 'Zoologist' will, I think, show that the earliest arrivals, as well as the latest departures, have been recorded here, but I never saw a swallow