

manage the farm and preserve the game inside the inclosure. It would be necessary also, for the first few years at least, that some responsible person should control the expenditure on the spot, give general directions to the manager, and devote himself in the calving seasons to procuring as many species of game as possible from various districts, to be turned loose in the inclosure. To defray the cost of fencing, transport, and labour, an estimated capital would be required of about £5000.

SOUTH AFRICAN RHINOCEROSSES.

SIR,—In your issue for April 14 I read with much pleasure a communication from Mr Tegetmeier, on the subject of the South African species of rhinoceros, but with special reference to the *Rhinoceros simus*, an animal which will, in all probability, become extinct within a decade or two, and of which, therefore, it is important that some well-preserved specimens should be extant in our museums. The two skins, &c., complete, which Mr Coryndon has procured for Mr W. Rothschild, are not only valuable as specimens of a little-known animal of gigantic size and most uncouth form, but will probably be among the last memorials obtainable for the inspection of the naturalistic world; and Mr Coryndon is entitled to great praise for his exertions in obtaining these interesting *spolia*, in spite of difficulties which I, at least, as an old African hunter, can only appreciate.

In the hope of contributing my mite to the amount of knowledge possessed of the several species of South African rhinoceroses, I venture to write down some reminiscences of a career in the South African hunting veldt, extending from 1849 to 1883, and therefore inclusive of a period of which more modern Nimrods can form but a faint idea, as regards the vast quantities of "big game," and especially of rhinoceros, which then roamed over the northern parts of the Transvaal, the Limpopo country, and Matabele land.

Between the commencement of my hunting career and 1866, rhinoceroses were in these parts to be seen in great numbers by any traveller, and no "spooring" was necessary to bring the hunter within shot of the mighty game. Indeed, black rhinoceroses infested the immediate banks of the Limpopo and its affluents in such numbers, and their aggressive proclivities were so much in evidence, that it was often necessary to shoot them down in defence of the traveller's equisage and attendants. For many years, indeed, Boer hunters and some few Englishmen shot rhinoceroses in the intervals of their elephant hunts for the sake of the whips ("jamboks") to be made of the hides, and for the horns, which, if long and fairly thick, fetched about £s. a pound for the China market; in fact, the value of an adult rhinoceros was about £15, so that hunters only limited their bag to the amount of available transport.

Three kinds of rhinoceroses are to be found south of the Zambesi. The *Rhinoceros simus* stands at the head of the family as being the largest, possessing the longest anterior horn, and an immense grotesque head, indicative of antediluvian ancestry. The measurements made by Mr Coryndon of the two specimens he got indicate young animals with nearly full stature at the shoulder, but hardly up to the mark as fine types of the matured animal in other respects. He has also omitted to send us the length of the characteristic heads of these specimens, measured from the tip of the nose to the junction with the neck. In adult animals the head thus measured will be about 6ft.; and I have preserved a note of one very large male, whose head measured 6ft. 4in. The horns, too, of Mr Coryndon's rhinoceroses are very much shorter than I have ever seen carried by adult rhinoceroses of this species, which generally approach 3ft. in length, and sometimes the horns extend to 4ft. or more. One which I killed on the Limpopo in 1853 had an anterior horn of 42in.; and the late Mr Oswald killed one with a horn of 40in. in the same locality. *R. simus*, being of a lazy, pacific disposition, and generally fat enough to afford a large supply of very palatable bacon in addition to his other uses, has been ruthlessly hunted, and, never having been numerous as *R. bicornis*, his race is run, and he will shortly disappear as a living entity.

It is, I think, very unlikely that any living specimen will arrive, for it is out of the question to expect the capture of an adult animal, which, even if caught, would soon die from the effects of a frantic temper; and young animals seldom live in captivity more than a few days, even when plentifully supplied with fresh milk and suitable food. Indeed I was once ambitious of sending a specimen home, and fitted out an expedition for the capture of some specimens. In all, we caught nine young animals of various sizes, but they all

its history. Measured with a steel tape line, this remarkable horn measures over the outside curve, from base to point, 1 metre 63 centimètres, which is about 61in., I think, in English measurement. When it is remembered that 40in. is a good length for the horns of a full grown sable antelope bull, and that 46in. is the length of the record head, it will be seen that this horn in the Florence Museum is 16in., or all but one-third, longer than the longest sable antelope horn previously known. Unfortunately there is no history attached to this horn in the archives of the Florence Museum. It is merely "No. 1279. The Horn of an Antelope," in the catalogue. However, it is either the horn of a sable antelope from South Africa of very abnormal length, or else the horn of some very nearly allied species, differing possibly from the sable antelope, much in the same way that the South African gemsbuck (*Oryx capensis*) differs from the shorter horned gemsbuck of East Africa (*Oryx callotis*). Is it possible that such a species can exist in the country to the south of Abyssinia, and that this horn can have been brought down to the Italian settlement on that coast? It is the country to the south of Abyssinia from which the long thin rhinoceros horns have lately been brought, I believe, though the beasts which bore them have never yet been seen by a European eye; so that it is not altogether beyond the range of probability that a species of antelope nearly allied to the sable antelope, but carrying much finer horns, may also exist there.

Hotel Hungaria, Pesth, Hungary.

F. C. SELOUS.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

ADDITIONS TO THE MENAGERIE, REGENT'S PARK, FROM MAY 21 TO MAY 27.

Date.	Name.	Country.	How obtained.	Where located in the Gardens
May 21	1 Brown Capuchin (<i>Cebus fatellus</i>) ♂	Guiana	Presented by Mr C. G. Frazer	Monkey House
"	2 Hoary Snakes (<i>Coronella cana</i>)	S. Africa	Presented by Mr J. E. Matcham	Reptile House
"	1 Crossed Snake (<i>Psammophis crucifer</i>)	Iditto	Iditto	Iditto
"	1 Infernal Snake (<i>Boodon infernalis</i>)	Iditto	Iditto	Iditto
22	1 Brown Capuchin (<i>Cebus fatellus</i>) ♂	Guiana	Presented by Miss F. Marryat	Monkey House
"	1 Reindeer (<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>) ♀	"	Born in the Menagerie	Moose Inclosure
"	1 Japanese Deer (<i>Cervus sika</i>) ♀	"	Iditto	Deer Paddock
"	1 Yellow-checked Amazon (<i>Chrysolis autumnalis</i>)	Honduras	Deposited	Parrot House
"	2 Alligator Terrapins (<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>)	"	Iditto	Reptile House
23	1 White-bellied Sea Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>)	Australia	Purchased	Eagle Aviary
"	2 Wonga Wonga Pigeons (<i>Leucosarcia picata</i>)	Iditto	Iditto	Western Aviary
24	2 Four-horned Antelopes (<i>Tetraceros quadricornis</i>) ♂ & ♀	India	Presented by Mr W. F. Sinclair	Gazelle Sheds
"	3 Stock Doves (<i>Columba sinensis</i>)	Brit. Islands	Presented by Mr L. A. Williams	Night Heron Aviary
25	4 Common Swans (<i>Cygnus olor</i>)	Iditto	Presented by Lord Braybrooke	Duck Ponds
26	2 Jameson's Gulls (<i>Larus nove hollandicus</i>)	Australia	Presented by Sir Ferdinand von Mueller, K.C.M.G.	Eastern Aviary
27	2 Natterjack Toads (<i>Bufo calamita</i>)	Brit. Islands	Presented by Miss Peckham	Reptile House

♂ Male. ♀ Female.

NOTES AND QUERIES ON NATURAL HISTORY.

GOLIATH BEETLES AT THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.—Two very fine Goliath beetles have just been placed in the Insect House, Zoological Gardens. They have been presented by Capt. A. L. Mitchell, of Cullercoats, Northumberland.—A. T.

LENGTH OF ADDER.—Seeing your account of the two adders killed near Aldershot measuring 27in. and a fraction each, I write to say that Mr W. W. Blest killed, at Biddenden, Kent, some years ago an adder measuring 29in. He was staying with meat the time.—HENRY B. BIRCH (Lymphen Vicarage, Hythe). [The dimensions above given are so much in excess of the average length of an adder, which rarely measures more than 20in. to 24in., that we venture to suggest that a ringed snake must have been mistaken for it.—Ed.]

THE LOCO WEED.—I have read with interest the account of "loco weed" in the review of "The Magazines" (*Field* of May 19, page 22), though I have not seen the article in the *Gentleman's Magazine* there referred to. The plant is common in some parts of

will be better understood by referring to the context, which is too long to be here quoted.—Ed.]

VELVET SCOTERS IN RYE BAY.—The scoters lately noticed in this bay have most likely dropped back from the Trapegeer shoal in the Zuidcote Pass, off the frontier between France and Belgium, the reason for this being the long continuance of northerly winds, which render the whole of that part of the coast broken water. The Trapegeer shoal from October to April, or later, is frequented by an incredible number of both kinds of scoter to such an extent, that when they rise *en masse* they frequently obscure the sight of the buoys which mark the north side of the shoal water, and thus temporarily increase the difficulty of navigation. These scoters should now be *en route* for the north and their breeding stations; it is, therefore, likely enough that some of them drop their eggs, though that these are recovered whole from the trawl seems more unlikely. Your correspondent should send a few for identification to the Natural History Museum at South Kensington, for, though possibly the velvet scoter nests annually in Scotland, English specimens of the eggs are unknown.—T. M. PIKE (Swanage). [The late Mr E. T. Booth, of Brighton, so well known for his remarkable collection of British birds, was of opinion that there was good reason for believing that the velvet scoter nested in parts of the northern Highlands of Scotland; but definite proof of this has not yet been obtained.—Ed.]

A TALKING ROOK.—It may interest some of your readers to know that there is a talking rook in my neighbourhood. True, his voice is rather gruff, but his emphasis leaves nothing to be desired. He is the property of Mr Oram, gamekeeper to Surg.-Gen. Bowon, of the Abbey, Banwell, and is seven years old. His proud possessor put him through his paces for my amusement, and informed me that in May, 1887, while in the service of Sir John Ramsdon, this bird was blown out of the nest while cawing, and the keeper took him home, like the bagman's pup, "to eat of his bread and drink of his cup," which he does *verbatim et literatim*, sharing a cup of cider, beer, or whisky with equal relish and with the same moderation. Asked where are you going, the rook replies, "I don't know," with an emphasis on the first person and an inflection of the voice it is impossible to believe without hearing. His *répertoire* is considerable, and his friendships peculiar. He is on intimate terms with the dogs, cats, and other pets of the keeper's home, but, in the words of his owner, will have nothing to do with his own kind. The ambassadors have been seen on many occasions from a neighbouring rookery tempting him to forsake his allegiance; on these occasions he is alarmed and angry, flying into the house in much trepidation. During my visit, and in his intervals of what may be fairly described as conversation with his owner and myself, he made frequent visits to a rose-breasted parrot, taking straws to her, and, as I thought, rather unkindly repeating an invitation to "come on," which, having no opportunity to comply, may have rendered Polly sulky, for she alone of the happy family seemed indifferent to his friendly advances. Remembering Major Hawkins Fisher's interesting notes on rooks, I inquired if the instinct of nidification had been observed, and was informed that the first year he spent in a cage, and had ever since had his liberty, building a nest in a fir tree the third year of his life. In one year he built two nests, as the first did not give him satisfaction; but each year he has built one, and always in a fir. His flight is quite equal to that of any wild bird, and the way he wheeled round the house gave me the impression that he could turn more quickly than his wild brethren. I have thought this bird worth mention, as I have never known a rook to talk, though in my days of "greater freedom and less responsibility" I undertook the education of numberless jacksnaws, magpies, jays, and starlings, some of which showed considerable linguistic attainments.—HAROLD LEEHEY, M.B.C.V.S., &c. [The nest building propensity suggests that the bird is a "she," not a "he," and if a young cock rook could be now procured, the result might be the foundation of a rookery close to the house, an event which might be welcomed.—Ed.]

WILD BIRDS PROTECTION.—In committee on the bill in the House of Commons for this purpose, Lord Cranborne intends to move to add to Clause 2 the words, "Provided that no such application shall be made by a county council except upon the ground that the particular species is without the protection of this Act in danger of becoming extinct in the county, nor shall a Secretary of State exercise the powers conferred by this section, unless he is satisfied that such is the case." Mr E. H. Bayley has given notice to move the following clause: "That no birdcatcher at any time of the year be allowed to set his nets or snares of any description within fifty yards of the high road, or of any park, garden, or common unless by permission of the owner of such park or garden, or the conservators of such common."

NICHOLSON

according to my proposal, to be sent eighty miles, and each one that returned was to be purchased by me for the sum of £10. It is needless to say that, although many fanciers believe in what they call the homing instinct, not one was willing to risk the loss of his birds by assisting me in carrying out this experiment. It is quite possible that, if it had been performed with many birds, one or two might have returned to my place; but that would have been no proof of any instinct, as, had this existed, all of them should have returned, whereas every pigeon-fancier knows the necessity of yearly training his birds, by stages, in order to get them to do any considerable distance.
W. B. ZEIGMEIER.

THE PRESERVATION OF AFRICAN BIG GAME.

A PROVISIONAL committee of English sportsmen and naturalists having been formed for the purpose of devising some scheme for the protection of South African mammals, the following statement has been drawn up by Capt. A. St. H. Gibbons for the consideration of the British South African Chartered Company:

It is a notorious fact that many species of South African game, notably such as have not receded northwards before the advance of colonisation, are becoming so scarce that some of the rarer species will shortly follow in the wake of the now extinct quagga, unless steps are taken to preserve them before it is too late.

To meet this end it is proposed—

1. That a society be formed which shall have for its object the preservation of small herds of each of the thirty-five to forty distinct species having their habitat within measurable distance of the districts selected for the inclosure proposed below.

2. That for this purpose a suitable tract of country—of, say, 100,000 acres—be inclosed with a wire fencing, strengthened by a strong live fence of thorn on the outside.

It is hoped that the B.S.A. Chartered Company, in consideration of the objects of the society, may allow such an inclosure to be made in the district near Fort Salisbury, which has already been reserved for game by the company.

In this district the eland, koodoo, roan and sable antelopes, hartebeest, zebra, blue wildebeest, reedbuck, and other species still exist, herds of which could with little difficulty be driven into the inclosure.

To these could be added the young of other species not indigenous to the district.

To avoid overcrowding, the herds of each species would necessarily be limited; the species marked * in the appended list, as being more immediately threatened with extinction, to twenty, and others to twelve, or thereabouts.

- Eland
- Koodoo
- Roan Antelope
- Sable Antelope
- Gemsbuck
- Waterbuck
- Blue Wildebeest
- Tsessebe
- Hartebeest (B. caama)
- Hartebeest (B. lichtensteini)
- Falla
- Bushbuck (T. sylvaticus)
- Bushbuck (T. scriptus)
- *Speke's Antelope
- *Mayala
- Reedbuck
- Lechwe
- *Pookoo
- Springbuck
- Red Rhebuck

- Vaal Rhebuck
- *Bontebuck
- *Blesbuck
- Ducker
- Steinbuck
- Oribi
- Grysbuck
- Klipspringer
- Bluebuck
- Natal Redbuck
- *White-tailed Gnu
- Damarra Antelope
- Giraffe
- Ostrich
- Wartdog
- Bushpig
- Zebra (B. montanus)
- Burchell's do.
- Chapman's do.

3. That as a means of profit, specimens be exported for the use of existing zoological societies, at market prices.

For this end, calves would be taken from their dams as young as possible, reared on cow's milk, and shipped at Beira, which will, no doubt, shortly be connected with Fort Salisbury by rail. A farm would be necessary outside the inclosure, to provide milk cows for rearing purposes.

came to grief, after causing an infinity of trouble and great expense. Lord Derby (I think the grandfather of the present nobleman) also employed a competent man with the object of procuring a R. simus, and his attempts also resulted in complete failure, although, as in my case, several young ones were caught. As is well known, these animals are as a rule non-aggressive, but when one does turn on the hunter, he is a far more formidable opponent than his cousin the irritable and fierce black rhinoceros, as his system of warfare indicates superior intelligence and perseverance; and I well remember a very unpleasant interview with one which chased me, with an empty M.L. gun in hand, round an unclimbable anthill some 20ft. high and perhaps 15ft. in diameter, for fully a quarter of an hour, but eventually he subsided from the effects of a lung-shot I had given him with a 3oz. bullet.

The local name of white rhinoceros has been, I think, given to this species from the comparative frequency of albinos among them, and not, as Mr Tegetmeier suggests, from soil stains; indeed, I have myself shot three of this species of a light yellow or cream colour. The normal colour, however, is a dingy black.

The black rhinoceros, or R. bicornis, used to be far more numerous than R. simus; but being fierce, unpalatable, and having a shorter horn, he was not so much hunted as his white congener, until the latter was getting scarce, when his happy days soon ended, and very few are now to be had. The anterior horn of the adult bicornis seldom exceeded 30in., and a number of them would probably average 24in., but they are thicker, and of closer texture than those of the white rhinoceros. As a distinctive name to the black rhinoceros, "bicornis" is misleading, inasmuch as all the South African rhinoceroses have two horns. In some of the almost inaccessible mountain ranges of the north-east corner of the Transvaal, and probably in other localities, a species or variety is, I believe, still to be found much better entitled to the name "bicornis," inasmuch as the posterior horn exactly resembles the anterior both in length and shape. I have a suspicion that this variety is very little, if at all, known to naturalists, and on that ground will venture a rough description of him.

This rhinoceros is known to Boer hunters by the name of "even lang horn." In form he exactly resembles the black rhinoceros on a reduced scale. If my memory of the few occasions on which I have interviewed him is correct, his height at the shoulder would not exceed 5ft. He is a bush eater, and therefore has the prehensile upper lip of R. bicornis, but his dingy hide has a distinctly blue sheen, and for this reason he is often called by the Boers "klein blauwetze" (the little blue one). The horns, however, are quite different in shape and size from those of the other members of the rhinoceros family. Both horns are of the same length, about 15in.; at the base they are about as thick as a man's wrist, and from thence they taper upwards, and terminate in a semi-circular and very sharp edge, like that of an ordinary table-knife. These horns are very dense in texture, and are perfectly straight. Personally I have only shot one of this kind of rhinoceros, for the impracticable nature of the country in which I have met with them precluded all chance of utilising his remains; and he is, I have heard, detestable as food. I have, however, seen a good many of the horns, and can speak with certainty on that point.

With regard to the Keitloa rhinoceros, I am bound to say I do not recognise him as a distinct species, and I think the name has been given by the natives merely on account of some accidental malformation of the horns of individual animals of the black rhinoceros.

Robertson, Cape Colony, May 8.

G. NICHOLSON.

REMARKABLE HORN OF SABLE ANTELOPE.

SIR,—It may possibly interest those of your readers who are conversant with the horn measurements of African game, to know that there is in the Natural History Museum of Florence, Italy, a single horn of a sable antelope (*Hippotragus niger*) of a most extraordinary length. This horn, lying at the back of one of the cases, attracted my attention directly I saw it, as the first glance assured me that it was far longer than any other sable antelope horn that I had ever seen before. On applying to Professor Giolioli, the

New Mexico, I believe the scientific name is *Oxytropis Lambertiana*; it is not unlike the British *O. Uralensis*. I was shown a lococoed horse which was supposed to put his head down and take an imaginary drink from a bluff about 100ft. above a dry river bed, and then to walk away with his thirst satisfied; but, though I led him to the right place and showed him the invisible water, I could not make him drink. It was probably a good enough yarn for a "tender foot."
—C. A. H.

SPRING MIGRANTS IN NORTH YORKSHIRE.—Some of our migrants are unusually scarce during the present season in this locality, among which may be mentioned the wood warbler, grass-hopper warbler, chiffchaff, tree pipit, and pied and spotted flycatchers. Redstarts and whinets also are perhaps not quite so plentiful as usual. On the other hand, the blackcap, garden warbler, sedge warbler, willow wren, whitethroat, and sandpiper are fairly abundant. The hawfinch has again nested near here, and the eggs, like others we have observed during the past few years, are of the bluish type, as given in Hlewetson's work on eggs, plate 52, fig. 3. My attention was first called to the breeding of the hawfinch in this district by the capture of young birds in the garden nets, attracted no doubt by the green peas. We have not heard the note of the landrail and cuckoo so frequently as usual, owing probably to the excessively cold weather.
—JAMES CARTER (Buxton House, Masham).

THRUSHES FEEDING THEIR CAPTIVE YOUNG.—Some days ago a thrush's nest fell from a tree in the garden of a friend of mine. Three of the thrushes were unhurt, and were put in a wicker cage and hung up in the tree, and for three days the parent birds fed them through the bars. On the third day the young were found dead about a couple of hours after the old bird had been seen to feed them. My friend told his gardener they were dead. "Oh, yes," he said, "it is always so; the old birds poison them when they find they can't get them out of the cage." On mentioning the circumstance, I have found it a general belief that the old birds will kill their young under such conditions. Now, can you tell me whether this idea prevails in any other part of the country, and what amount of truth there can be in it?—C. E. H. [We have heard or read somewhere of this popular notion, but have no faith in it. If our correspondent had forwarded the dead birds, we would have endeavoured, by a post-mortem examination, to ascertain the nature of their last meal.—ED.]

THE NIGHTINGALE IN CARDIGANSHIRE.—On May 18 I heard, for the first time in Wales, a nightingale singing in some woods on Pertgornwy Talgarreg, near Llansyffordd. It was about 10 a.m., and the weather at the time was warm and sunny, just after a shower. I heard it for half an hour, and saw it as well, and having been for years in England accustomed to its note and form, I could not be mistaken in its identity. If any of your readers have heard it so far westward in Wales, or even in the middle part of it, I should be glad to receive communications about this or any other observations about any animals or birds seen in Wales generally supposed not to visit it. I have often seen reports in newspapers at different times that the nightingale had been heard in Wales, but I have no recollection that this was verified by competent witnesses. Such reports might easily arise in many cases by mistaking for the nightingale's the note of the blackcap, a bird found often in Wales, and in its song resembling it; but the former is easily distinguishable by the *timbre* of its voice and peculiar objurgatory note.—CAMBRIAN NATURALIST.

TWO CUCKOO'S EGGS IN ONE NEST.—While strolling over Ashhead Common, in Surrey, last Saturday, I noticed a hedge sparrow dart hurriedly out of a gorse bush a few feet away, and on looking into the bush, I found her nest, which contained three of her own eggs and two of those of the cuckoo. I believe it is a rare occurrence to find two eggs of this bird in the same nest. The eggs were totally unlike each other, one being much larger and of a lighter colour, while both were slightly set. This locality seems to be a favourite resort of this bird, for on the same afternoon I heard at least a dozen different cuckoos calling from various directions at the same time.—W. H. POPP. [In the chapter on the cuckoo in "Our Summer Migrants," it is remarked (p. 230) that "two cuckoo's eggs of a different colour"

Nicholson, G., 1894. South African rhinoceroses. *The Field*, 2 June 1894, no. 2162, p. 809.

South African rhinoceroses

Sir, - In your issue for April 14 I read with much pleasure a communication from Mr Tegetmeier, on the subject of the South African species of rhinoceros but with special reference to the *Rhinoceros simus*, an animal which will in all probability become extinct within a decade or two, and of which therefore it is important that some well-preserved specimens should be extant in our museums. The two skins &c. complete, which Mr Coryndon has procured for Mr

W. Rothschild, are not only valuable as specimens of a little-known animal of gigantic size and most uncouth form, but will probably be among the last memorials obtainable for the inspection of the naturalistic world; and Mr Coryndon is entitled to great praise for his exertions in obtaining these interesting spolia in spite of difficulties, which I, at least, as an old African hunter, can duly appreciate.

In the hope of contributing my mite to the amount of knowledge possessed of the several species of South African rhinoceroses, I venture to write down some reminiscences of a career in the South African hunting veldt, extending from 1849 to 1883 and therefore inclusive of a period of which more modern Nimrods can form but a faint idea, as regards the vast quantities of 'big game,' and specially of rhinoceros, which then roamed over the northern parts of the Transvaal, the Limpopo country, and Matabele land.

Between the commencement of my hunting career and 1866, rhinoceroses were in these parts to be seen in great numbers by any traveller, and no 'spooring' was necessary to bring the hunter within shot of the mighty game. Indeed, black rhinoceroses infested the immediate banks of the Limpopo and its affluents in such numbers, and their aggressive proclivities were so much in evidence, that it was often necessary to shoot them down in defense of the traveller's equipage and attendants. For many years, indeed, Boer hunters and some few Englishmen shot rhinoceroses in the intervals of their elephant hunts for the sake of the whips ('jamboks') to be made of the hides, and for the horns, which if long and fairly thick, fetched about 8s. a pound for the China market, in fact, the value of an adult rhinoceros was about £15 so that hunters only limited their bag to the amount of available transport.

Three kinds of rhinoceroses are to be found south of the Zambesi. The *Rhinoceros simus* stands at the head of the family as being the largest, possessing the longest anterior horn and an immense grotesque head, indicative of antediluvial ancestry. The measurements made by Mr Coryndon of the two specimens he got indicate young animals with nearly full stature at the shoulder, but hardly up to the mark an fine types of the matured animal in other respects. He has also omitted to send us the length of the characteristic heads of these specimens, measured from the tip of the nose to the junction with the neck. In adult animals the head thus measured will be about 6 ft; and I have preserved a note of one very large male, whose head measured 6 ft. 4 in. The horns, too, of Mr Coryndon's rhinoceroses are very much shorter than I have ever seen carried by adult rhinoceroses of this species, which generally approach 3 ft. in length, and sometimes the horns extend to 40 in. or more. One which I killed on the Limpopo in 1856 had an anterior horn of 42 in.; and the late Mr Oswald killed one with a horn of 40 in. in the same locality. *R. simus* being of a lazy, pacific disposition, and generally fat enough to afford a large supply of very palatable bacon in addition to his other uses, has been ruthlessly hunted, and, never having been so numerous as *R. bicornis*, his race is run, and he will shortly disappear as a living entity.

It is, I think, very unlikely that any living specimen will arrive, for it is out of the question to expect the capture of an adult animal, which, even if caught, would soon die from the effects of a frantic temper and young animals seldom live in captivity more than a few days, even

when plentifully supplied with fresh milk and suitable food. Indeed I was once ambitious of sending a specimen home and fitted out an expedition for the capture of some specimens. In all we caught nine young animals of various sizes, but they all came to grief, after causing an infinity of trouble and great expense. Lord Derby (I think the grandfather of the present nobleman) also employed a competent man with the object of procuring a *R. simus*, and his attempts also resulted in complete failure, although, as in my case, several young ones were caught. As is well known these animals are as a rule non-aggressive, but when one does turn on the hunter, he is a far more formidable opponent than his cousin the irritable and fierce black rhinoceros, as his system of warfare indicates superior intelligence and perseverance; and I well remember a very unpleasant interview with one which chased me, with an empty M.L. gun in hand, round an unclimbable anthill some 20 ft. high and perhaps 15 ft. in diameter, for fully a quarter of an hour, but eventually he subsided from the effects of a lung-shot I had given him with a 3oz. bullet.

The local name of white rhinoceros has been, I think, given to this species from the comparative frequency of albinos among them, and not, as Mr Tegetmeier suggests, from soil stains; indeed, I have myself shot three of this species of a light yellow or cream colour. The normal colour, however, is a dingy black.

The black rhinoceros, or *R. bicornis*, used to be far more numerous than *R. simus*; but being fierce, unpalatable, and having a shorter horn, he was not so much hunted as his white congener, until the latter was getting scarce, when his happy days soon ended, and very few are now to be had. The anterior horn of the adult *bicornis* seldom exceeded 30 in. and a number of them would probably average 24 in., but they are thicker, and of closer texture than those of the white rhinoceros. As a distinctive name to the black rhinoceros, 'bicornis' is misleading, inasmuch as all the South African rhinoceroses have two horns. In some of the almost inaccessible mountain ranges of the north-east corner of the Transvaal, and probably in other localities, a species or variety is, I believe, still to be found much better entitled to the name 'bicornis', inasmuch as the posterior horn exactly resembles the anterior both in length and shape. I have a suspicion that this variety is very little, if at all, known to naturalists, and on that ground will venture a rough description of him.

This rhinoceros is known to Boer hunters by the name of 'even lang horn.' In form he exactly resembles the black rhinoceros on a reduced scale. If my memory of the few occasions on which I have interviewed him is correct, his height at the shoulder would not exceed 5ft. He is a bush eater, and therefore has the prehensile upper lip of *R. bicornis*, but his dingy hide has a distinctly blue sheen, and for this reason he is often called by the Boers "klein blau wetze" (the little blue one). The horns, however, are quite different in shape and size from those of the other members of the rhinoceros family. Both horns are of the same length, about 15 in.; at the base they are about as thick as a man's wrist, and from thence they taper upwards, and terminate in a semi-circular and very sharp edge, like that of an ordinary table-knife. These horns are very dense in texture, and are perfectly straight. Personally I have only shot one of this kind of rhinoceros, for the impracticable nature of the country in which I have met with them precluded all chance of utilising his remains; and he is, I have heard, detestable as food. I have, however, seen a good many of the horns, and can speak with certainty on that point.

With regard to the Keitloa rhinoceros I am bound to say I do not recognise him as a distinct species, and I think the name has been given by the natives merely on account of some accidental malformation of the horns of individual animals of the black rhinoceros.