

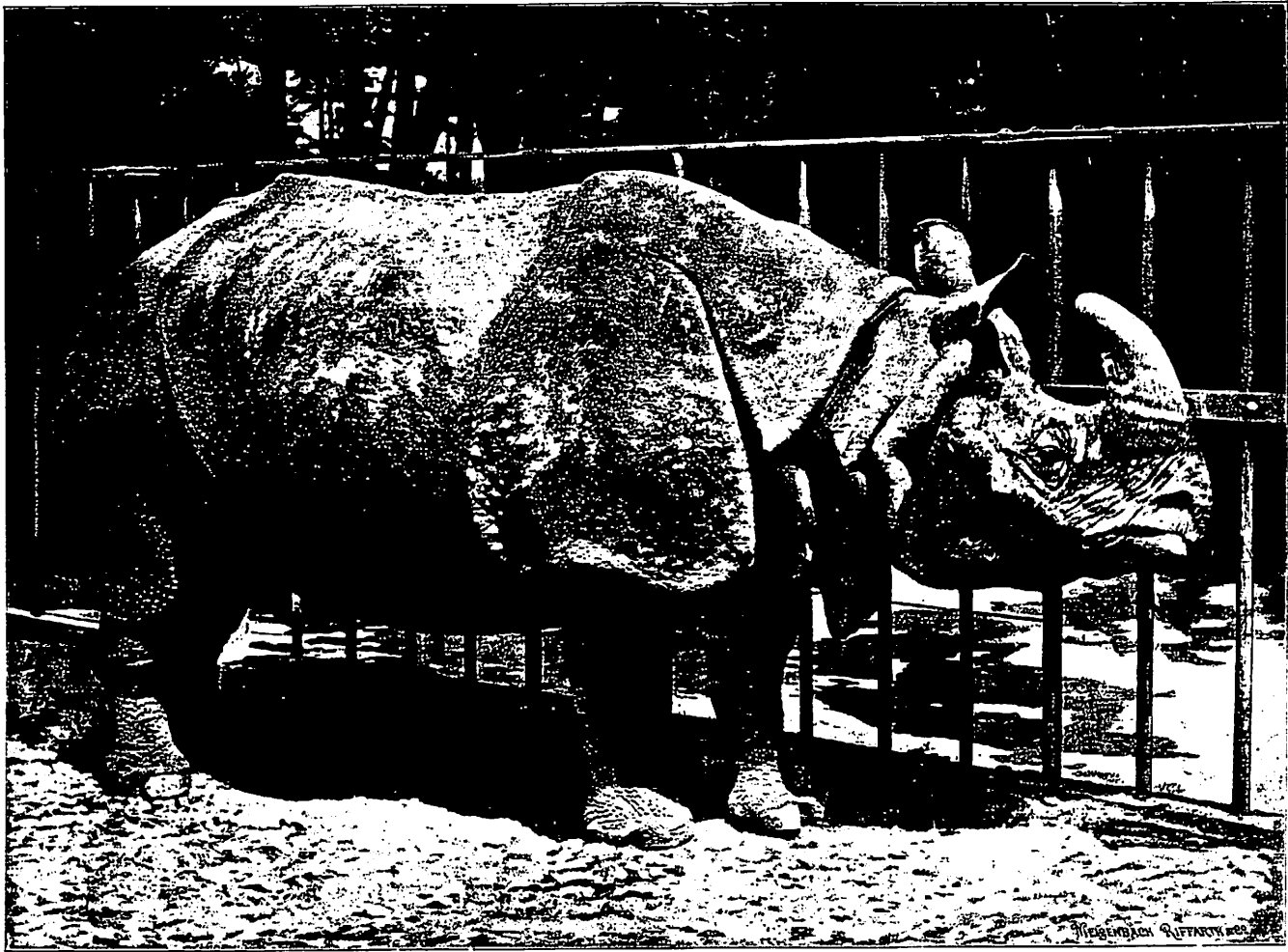
THE AFRICAN RHINOCEROS. — Reference to an earlier page will illustrate the striking differences between the rhinoceros of Asia and Africa. Here we see no thickly-armoured neck and limbs, which mark out the Indian rhinoceros as a warrior. The body is less shapely, the legs are thin and angular, the abdomen is flat and sagging, the thighs project and present an ungainly appearance, while its head is a ludicrous admixture of ferocity and stupidity. There is something striking about the determined mouth, arched nostril, and well-curved horn of the Indian species, but the African relative possesses not a single claim to even this attribute. It is furnished with two horns which grow much larger than in either of the Asiatic species. They are placed both together and in our

out of all resemblance to a respectable horn. The African rhinoceros is further distinguished from his Asiatic brother by the want of both incisor teeth and tusks. In consequence of this lack of teeth the jaws are considerably reduced in length and this weakness of the mouth is still further accentuated by the rounded and truncated nasal bones. The rhinoceros found on the south-eastern side of the continent has the credit of presenting a pair of polished and unmitigated horns, which are of uniform thickness and flatten out from the base towards the point. Not for many years has a specimen of the African rhinoceros been seen in the Regents Park collection, though it is now in Mashonaland may, at no distant date, be found to yield a specimen of the same white rhinoceros which is to be seen in



THE RHINOCEROS TAKING A BATH. — In our first picture of the Indian rhinoceros on a previous page, reference was made to the fact that every five or six years the large backward-pointing horn on the tip of the nose is shed and is, in course of time, replaced by a new one. Here we see the nasal appendage discarded, leaving a tender wound, dark in colour and filled with blood. During the few days that the animal is in this condition it is in a piteous plight. Of a somewhat pugnacious disposition, it is in the habit of prodding with its nose anything that it deems an obstruction, or a possible enemy, and the sudden start and sensitive withdrawal of the head when the denuded snout touches anything, such as a bar or stump of wood, proves how tender the exposed nerves must be. Deprived of its formidable weapon it must be at a considerable disadvantage until the new ornament has grown. Though disputed for a considerable time — the loss

of the horn being attributed to accident — it is now, after many years of observation, been conclusively proved that the shedding is a natural process. Strictly speaking it is not a horn in the sense that it is connected with the skull. It is entirely a growth of the skin. Polished and smooth at the tip, the base is ragged, and thin fragments, which may be stripped upwards, show resemblance to a section of actual hair, as seen in transverse section, under the microscope. The horn rests upon a peculiar arched formation of the facial bones, its position enabling the rhinoceros to withstand an extraordinary amount of concussion. At present nothing appears to be known of the habits of the double-horned Africa rhinoceros in respect to this periodical shedding. There is no record of any specimen being found minus the, in the case of this species, very rugged weapons.



THE INDIAN RHINOCEROS (*Rhinoceros unicornis*). — In spite of its forbidding appearance the rhinoceros is, if left unmolested in its native wilds, a peace-loving, inoffensive creature, whose chief joy is to wallow in the cooling waters of some congenial lake or river, where succulent water-plants abound and upon which he may dine at his ease. Yet when aroused from its somnolency the rhinoceros is a foe to fear. Its small, pig-like eyes gleam with wicked intent and when he makes a furious charge he attacks everything within reach, with almost incredible swiftness. The huge horn above the snout then becomes a dangerous weapon. Every five or six years this peculiar growth is cast, to be replaced by a new one. The thick folds of skin over the limbs and throat, which

act as effective armourplates, are well shown in our very excellent photograph. The Indian rhinoceros is found in Assam and Nepal, in the great forest district which fringes the base of the Himalayas. There are also two-horned rhinoceroses found in various portions of south-eastern Asia, which have the further characteristic of being "hairy-eared" and as such are generally known. Other species are peculiar to Africa. One, a very fine specimen of the black rhinoceros, lived in the Zoological Gardens for 23 years. Although large rewards have been offered it has never been found possible to obtain a specimen of the so-called white rhinoceros, which is believed to be extinct. Like the hippopotamus the rhinoceros is happier in the water than on land but, unlike the former, takes kindly to a sojourn on *terra firma*.