

opinion exists as to what a rhino can do on three legs. I have seen a cow, with her fore-leg broken above the knee, travel for over a mile at a pace that I and my gun-bearer could not keep up with ; and another, also with a fore-leg broken, went over 6 miles, sometimes at a great pace, before I killed her. They are difficult beasts to stop when charging. One must use heavy metal, and either kneel or squat down in order to put a bullet in the chest or throat. The most sportsmanlike method of shooting rhino is by spooring them from their drinking-holes. Water should always be carried on such occasions. Even if disturbed once or twice they do not go far before halting. If they are lying up in thick cover, one's native attendants can be sent in at the far end to drive them out. They will invariably break cover at or near the spot where they entered it, which can be guarded by the sportsman. Following them in thick cover is exciting work, but somewhat unsatisfactory, as the sportsman must get to very close quarters in order to obtain a shot, and is almost certain to be heard by the quick-eared brutes before he can do this. I always find a double .461 Metford, 90/570, a perfect weapon for rhino shooting, but from choice I prefer a double 12-bore, with 6 or 7 drams of powder and a solid hardened projectile of 2 oz. or $2\frac{1}{4}$ oz. Solid bullets alone must be used ; hollow express bullets are useless. The Lee-Metford is said to be very efficient, but I have not tried it ; it is too small for my fancy. In case of a charge, I prefer something heavier and more certain.

F. VAUGHAN KIRBY.

IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA

NDOROBO NAME, *Munyi* ; SWAHILI NAME, *Faru*

The rhinoceros of East Africa is of the kind commonly called the "black," which is, I believe, the only species in all Africa north of the Zambesi. It varies in size in different parts, but in every other essential characteristic it is uniform everywhere. Judging by the dimensions given

by other writers, it attains a greater size in Southern Africa (I have not myself shot any there) ; and in East Africa, too, it seems to become smaller as we go north, as shown by the following measurements, of which the first is from Mr. F. J. Jackson's notes, the other two are my own (the length being *exclusive* of the tail, which measures about 2 feet, more or less) :—
 adult bull (Naivasha), height = 5 feet 5 inches ; length = 12 feet 1 inch :
 adult bull (Seya River), height = 5 feet 3 inches ; length = 10 feet :

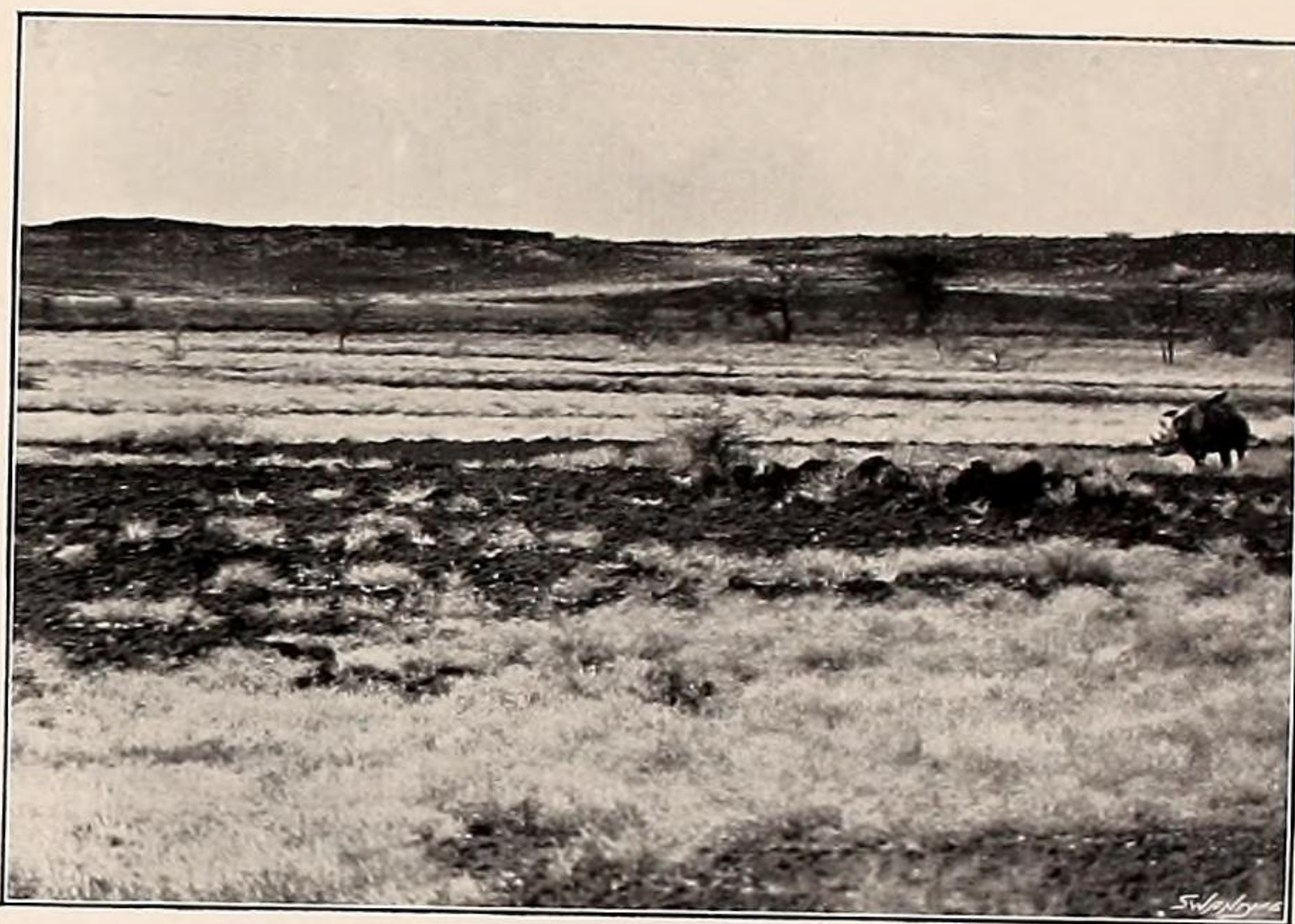


FIG. 5.—Black Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros bicornis*) photographed by Lord Delamere in the Volcanic Country to the east of Lake Rudolph.

The birds on the back are crows, not rhinoceros birds.

adult bull (Lake Rudolph), height = 4 feet 9 inches ; length = 9 feet. (All these measurements were made in straight lines.) Length of horn is, as I have endeavoured to show in the book before referred to, a purely fortuitous individual trait ; and the extremely long horns (mostly of females) which have occasionally been obtained from traders on the east coast and brought home are merely exceptionally fine specimens, selected from among large numbers brought to the coast (the bulk of which, I am told, go to China to be ground up into medicine), and do

not belong to any distinct species, nor come from any particular region. In proof of this contention I may mention that I have a 40-inch horn, the owner of which I myself shot at the northern base of the Jambeni Range (near Kenia), in a neighbourhood where I hunted a great deal, and saw great numbers of rhinos and shot a good many. The vast majority have quite short horns—under a foot—and anything over 18 inches is uncommon, while a length of 30 inches or upwards is extremely rare.

I believe that rhinoceroses are more numerous in the part of Africa of which I am writing than in any other. In some places they are very common ; so much so, that one may often see many in one day, where the country is sufficiently open for it to be possible to do so, while merely travelling through it. For they do not confine themselves to thick bush, as is the usual habit of elephants ; nor, except where much persecuted by natives, are they so careful to conceal themselves during the day-time. Moreover, though probably in the aggregate less numerous than those animals, they live scattered over the country in pairs or singly, sometimes three, and rarely four being found together, but never more ; and as they keep pretty much, generally speaking, to the particular area embracing their own haunts, and do not migrate from one district to another, as do elephants, they are commonly more in evidence than are these latter.

It is a mistake to suppose, as is sometimes assumed, that the rhinoceros has any tendency to semi-aquatic habits. A wet climate disagrees with him, and during the rains he is always in poor condition, and generally has sores on his body. I believe this to be the reason that there are no rhinoceroses in West Central Africa and that they are much scarcer in the parts of East Africa where the rainfall is greater. The dry, barren wastes of British East Africa seem to suit them best ; here they are equally at home in the dense scrub, such as that which borders the Tana River (where they are very numerous), and in the open, arid plains of Masailand or Leikipia. They are also sometimes met with in the forests, on the

slopes of the principal mountains and ranges. In Uganda, Usoga, and Kavirondo, bordering Lake Victoria Nyanza, on the contrary, where the climate is moister, there are, so far as I am aware, no rhinoceroses; and similarly they are absent from the neighbourhood of the sea coast. On the other hand, the rhinoceros cannot do without water. He must drink nightly or daily (I have many times watched one drink in broad daylight); and, when he can, he likes to take a mud bath. For this reason, though he will wander many miles away in search of food, he is never seen any very great distance from water; and the sight of one of these animals is a sign that water is to be found somewhere within a distance of not more than about 8 or 10 miles. Rolling in the dust is also a favourite way of making his toilet; and, in consequence of this habit, he generally approximates in colour to the soil of the country he inhabits. Thus in one district the rhinos appear almost white, in another red, or nearly black, as the case may be.

These creatures wander about and feed all night, and, where not much disturbed, during a good part of the day too, though during the hottest hours they commonly sleep, sometimes under a tree, at others quite in the open. But where much harassed by natives they are seldom or never seen abroad by daylight, but hide themselves away in the densest thickets, so that only the spoor made during their nightly rambles betrays the fact of their presence in the locality.

Although the black rhinoceros does not eat grass, in open country its food consists, to a great extent, of weeds and plants that grow among the herbage of the plains, and it may be seen apparently grazing. During periods of drought, in particular, these animals wander far over the uplands in search of food, coming down during the night to slake their thirst at some pool left in the bed of a watercourse, many miles distant, to which their well-worn paths converge.

As has often been pointed out, the rhino is the most intensely stupid

of animals and marvellously blind. So much so that it may often be approached even on a bare plain with little trouble, *up wind*. It is their very stupidity and blindness which makes these beasts a source of danger to passing caravans ; for, should the wind be blowing *from* them, and unless they be accompanied by tick-birds, as they often are, which alarm them and cause them to make off, they frequently remain unconscious of the approach of a caravan until it is close to them, when, being suddenly confronted with a long line of porters, they will sometimes charge straight through it, apparently under the impression that there is no other way of escape open. On the other hand they are keen-scented ; and if the wind be blowing in their direction they start away at a quick trot as soon as the taint reaches them and while yet a long way off. It is only when wounded that a rhinoceros gallops.

As regards the much-disputed question to what degree the rhinoceros is a dangerous beast, the result of my experience and observations is very decidedly to convince me that, under ordinary circumstances and with proper caution, there is not very much risk in shooting him, and that the danger is not to be compared in any way with that attending the pursuit of the elephant. At the same time, there is always a possibility that one may charge, and there is therefore a certain amount of excitement in the sport ; and instances are not rare of men having been badly injured by these beasts. They are easy to kill. A shot in the heart or through the lungs is quickly fatal. Through, behind, or in front of the shoulder (according to the position), or, if facing the hunter, in the throat (just where the neck joins the chest), are the points I prefer to aim for, though a shot in the brain or the vertebræ of the neck is more instantaneous in its effect.

I should be sorry to enter upon the much-vexed question of the best rifle to use, or to presume to lay down any rule for others as to the size of bore they should adopt ; but I may record the fact that I have not found the need of big bores, and was never more successful than with a common

.303 Lee-Metford, using the ordinary military cartridge with solid, nickel-plated bullet. If a rhino charge home he is generally not difficult to dodge, and when dodged he commonly goes right on. When suddenly disturbed, in his first rush he makes a great puffing and snorting, which is particularly disconcerting in thick cover, when the beast is hidden and it is impossible to tell which way he is coming.

The natural language or call of this creature to its mate—rarely heard, and, in my experience, only at night—is a kind of gurgling grunt.

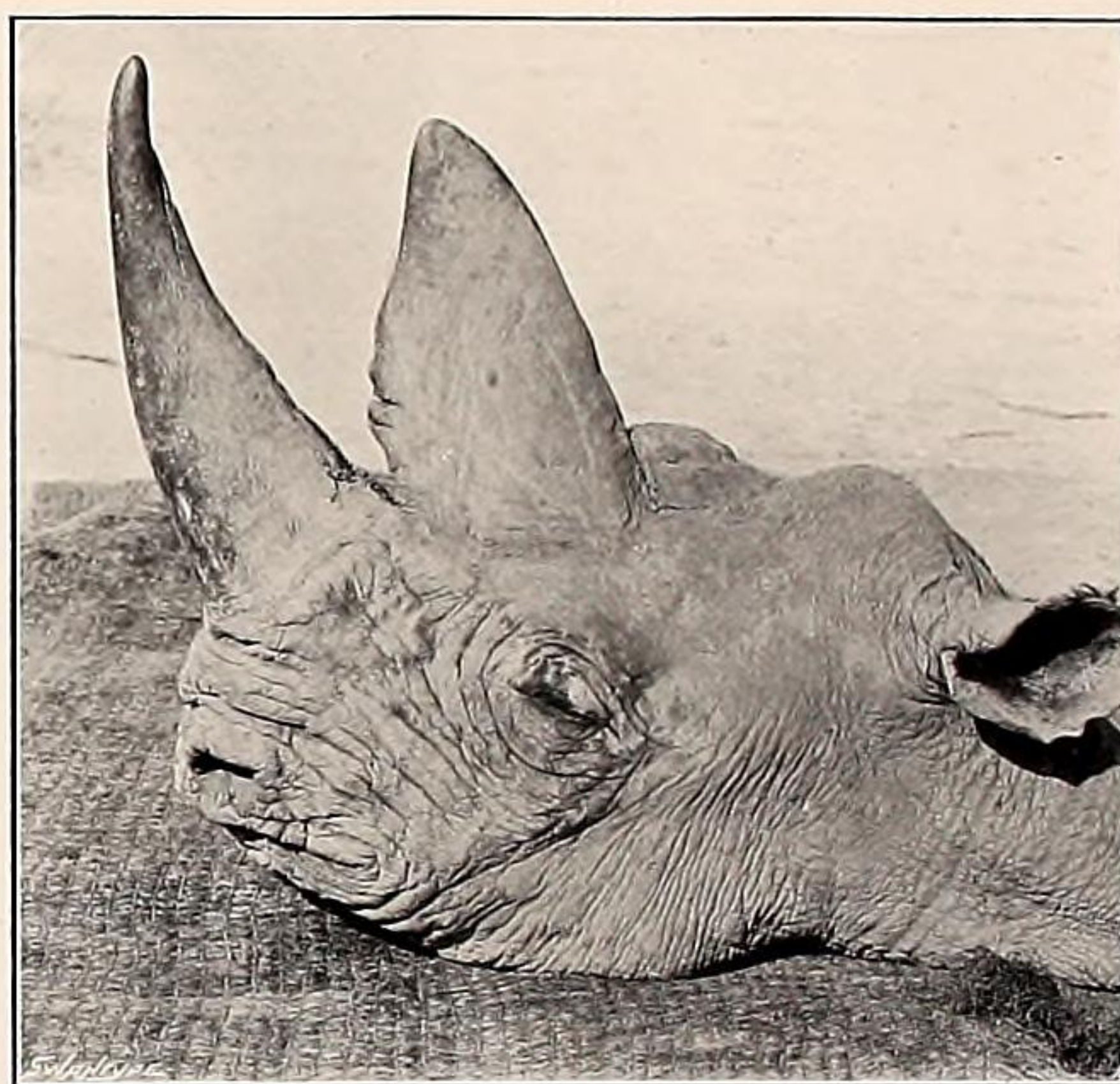


FIG. 6.—Head of Black Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros bicornis*) shot to the east of Mount Rual, East Africa. Photographed by Lord Delamere.

The Ndorobos kill these animals with their elephant harpoons, or trap them in the same manner as elephants. Those I have been among have far less fear of rhinoceros than of elephants, and as a consequence it is a rare thing to see a rhino in country much frequented by such of these people as have much skill and courage in elephant hunting. The same applies to Swahilis, many of whom think nothing of shooting a “faro,” though they would not dream of attacking elephants. The Wasanya (who stand in the same relationship to the Gallas as the Ndorobos do to the

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Masai) kill rhinos, as well as elephants and other animals, with their very powerful bows and arrows; while even the puny weapons of the Wakamba, made deadly by the strong poisons with which these people are so well acquainted, are capable of occasionally laying one low.

Swahilis are very fond of rhinoceros meat, and the liver is considered by them a great delicacy. The tongue is, in my opinion, the best part, and is very good when thoroughly boiled; or the tail, well stewed, is not bad; either takes many hours to cook.

A. H. NEUMANN.

IN SOMALILAND

SOMALI NAME, *Wiyil*; ABYSSINIAN NAME, *Aurarisse*

The rhinoceros of Somaliland appears to be the same animal as that found in East and Central Africa. It is found varying very much in size, also in shape and length of horn. I myself have shot rhinoceros with three very marked varieties of horns; one had three distinct horns, the second had a front horn of 29 inches, the other being 12 inches only, whilst the third specimen had a front horn of 17 inches and the other horn 18 inches. The latter animal seems to correspond with the old descriptions of *R. keitloa*. My companion, T. W. B. Greenfield, who had shot many rhinoceroses in the Kilimanjaro country, could see no difference. Half-way across the Haud (the great waterless plateau) I first found their tracks. They are fairly numerous on the southern side of the Haud, and particularly so between Milmil and Imè, and again south of the Webbi Sheybelli.

Rhinoceroses seem to have a great predilection for the tree cactus (giant euphorbia), uprooting it and chewing the branches. The acrid juice of a cactus should tickle even a rhino's palate. The rhinoceros, when unaccompanied by birds, is very easy to approach so long as the wind is right, as it relies almost entirely on its marvellous sense of smell for any warning