

OF the building operations in the Zoological Park, the most important single feature is the "new" Elephant House.* Of ten years of building work, it is the climax; and it is fittingly crowned with a dome. It is situated on the site prepared for it by Nature, and chosen twelve years ago, on the axis of Baird Court, and in the open space midway between the Court and the Wolf Dens. In effect, it connects the two great groups of installations of the northern and southern regions of the Park, which until now have been slightly separated.

In several important particulars the Elephant House is unlike all other buildings in the Park. It is high; it is entered at the center of each side, instead of at each end; it is built entirely of stone; it has a main roof of green tiles, and has a lofty dome covered with glazed tiles laid in an elaborate color pattern of browns and greens. The dome is finally surmounted by a "lantern" of elaborate tile work, also in colors. Excepting the dome, the whole exterior structure is of smoothly dressed Indiana limestone. Each

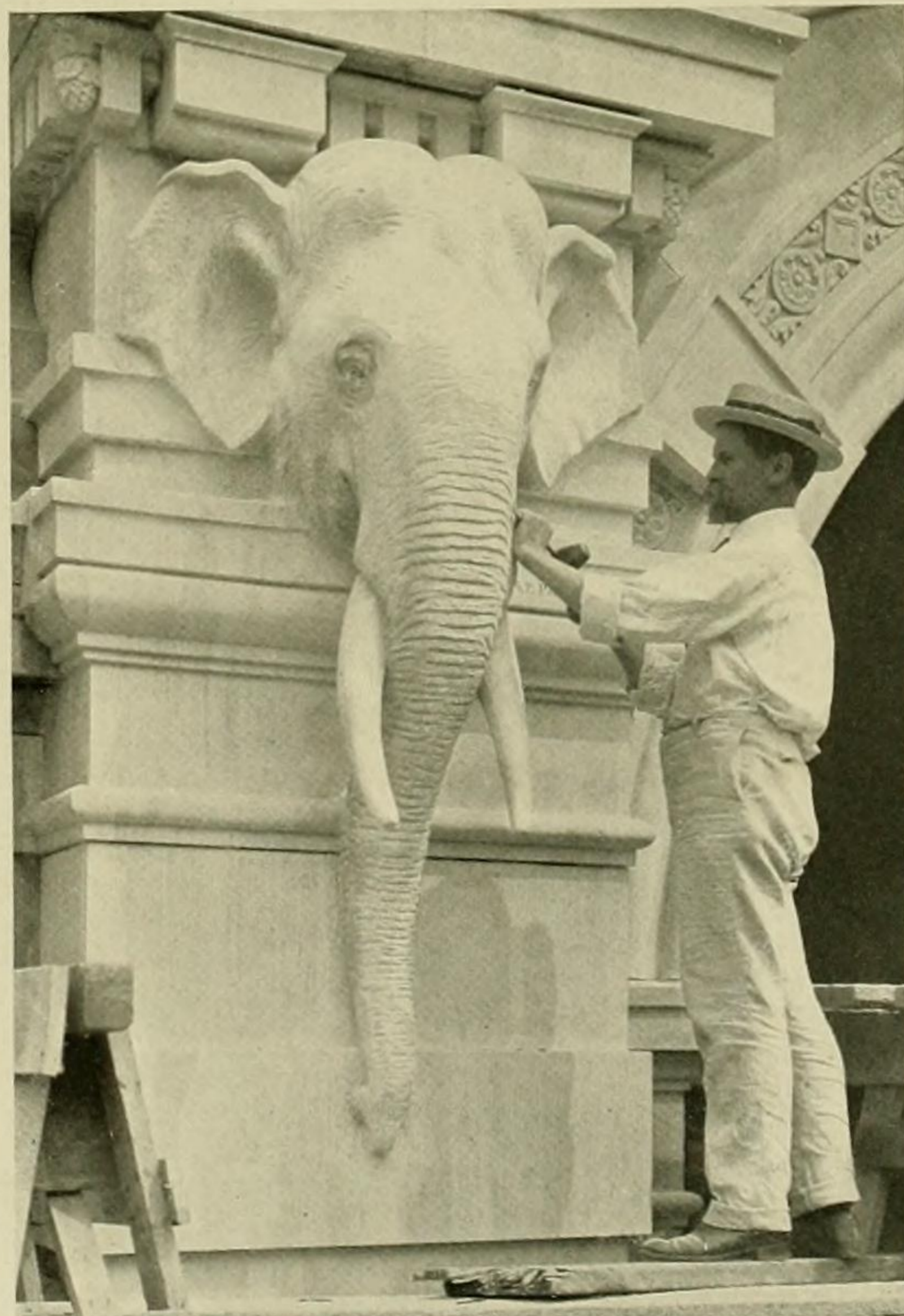
* We have been calling it "new," because previous to its completion, the thousands of visitors who inquired for "the Elephant House" were directed to the Antelope House, where the elephants were temporarily quartered.

entrance consists of a lofty and dignified archway, in which the doors are deeply recessed; and each of these arches is grandly ornamented by animal heads, sculptured in stone. The lines of the exterior of the building are imposing.

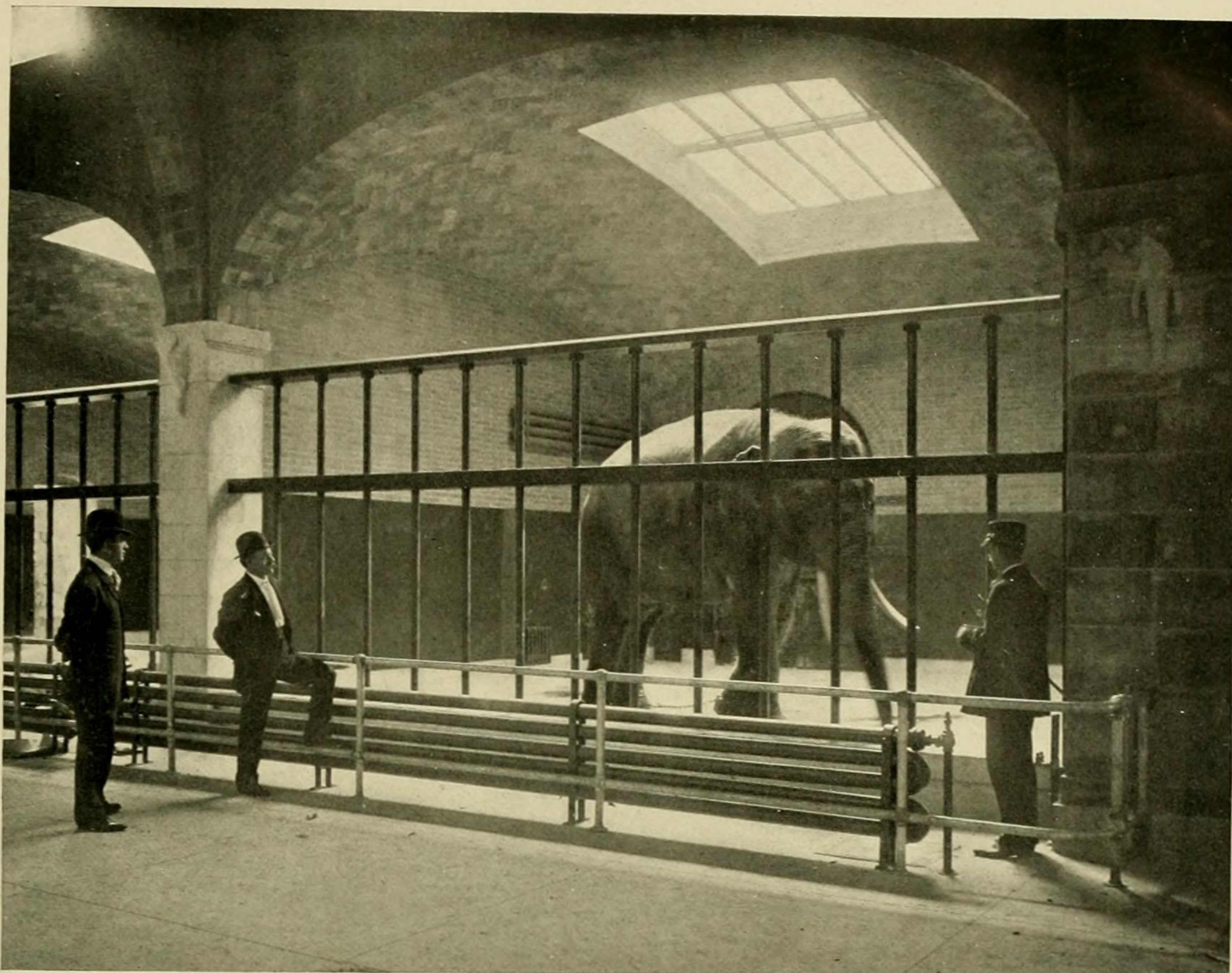
The color effects of the interior are particularly pleasing. The large, flat bricks of the Gustavino arch system are in their natural colors, and form a blending of soft brown and buff shades that not only avoids monotony, but is pleasing and restful to the eye. Combined with the vaulted

ceilings of the main halls and the cages there are a few strong arches of mottled buff brick which harmonize perfectly with the ceiling tiles of the main dome. This scheme of vaulted ceilings is so new that few persons ever have seen a finished example. Both the main dome, and the arched ceiling below it, have been constructed by Gustavino without the employment of either the steel rafters or ribs which one naturally expects to see in such structures.

The animal sculptures on the Elephant House are of commanding interest and importance, and well worthy of the stately building that they adorn. In the sculptor's competition which was held last year, the work of Messrs. A. P. Proctor and



HEAD OF INDIAN ELEPHANT, SOUTH FACADE.
The Sculptor, A. Phimister Proctor, at Work.



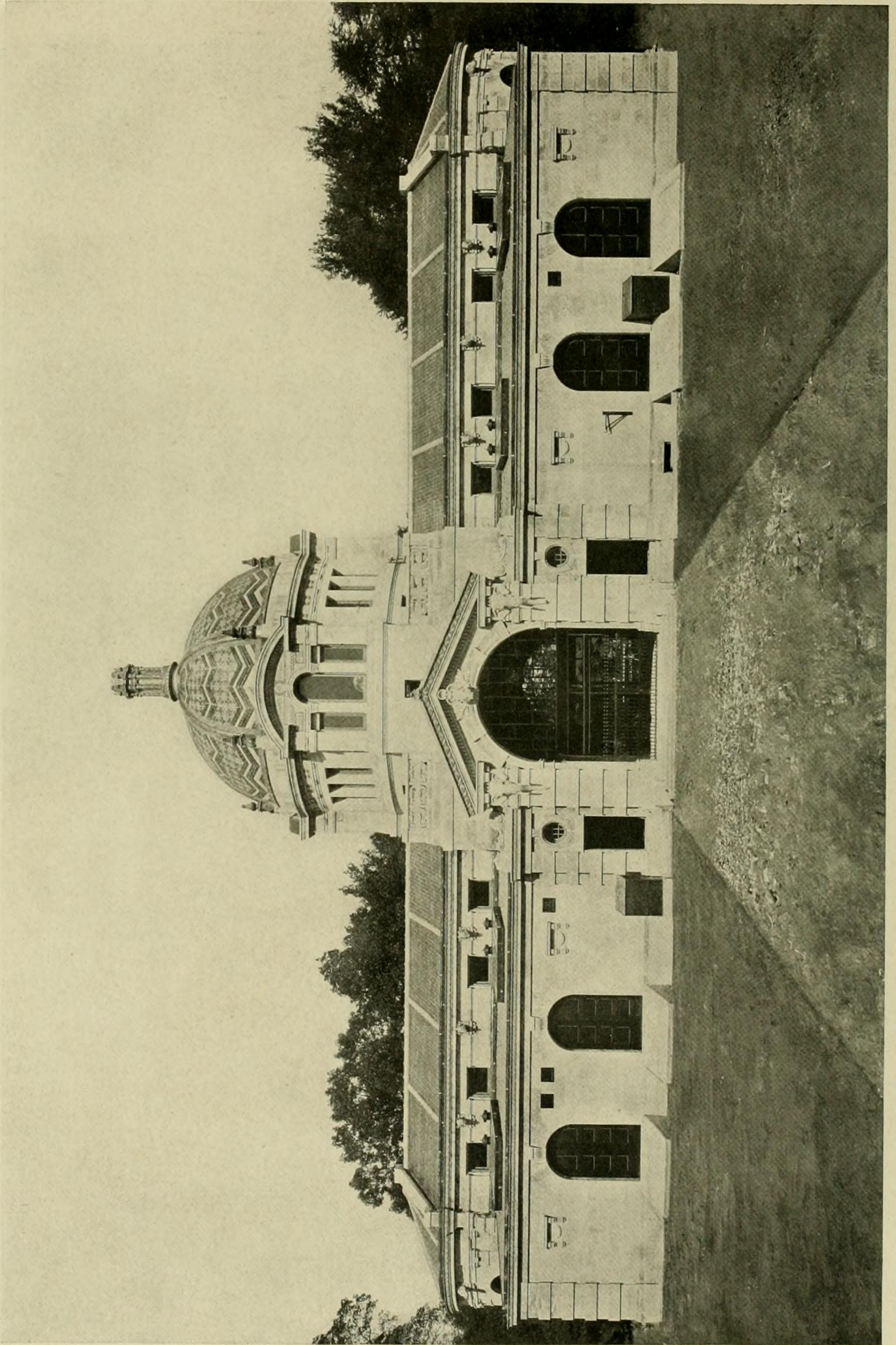
INDIAN ELEPHANT "GUNDA" IN HIS NEW QUARTERS AT THE ELEPHANT HOUSE.

Charles R. Knight was so nearly equal in merit that it was impossible to choose between them, and for this reason the work was divided, one-half of it being awarded to each. Mr. Proctor has executed for the south entrance, two large heads of the Indian elephant and an Indian rhinoceros, while Mr. Knight has modeled the three heads of African elephant and African rhinoceros that ornament the north entrance. All these are fine examples of wild-animal sculpture, and well illustrate the extent to which the realism of Nature may be fitly applied to a modern building, in place of the grotesque and conventionalized sculptures that hitherto have enjoyed the favor of architects. I think it is safe to say, in America at least, that the day of grotesque "architectural" animal sculpture has passed.

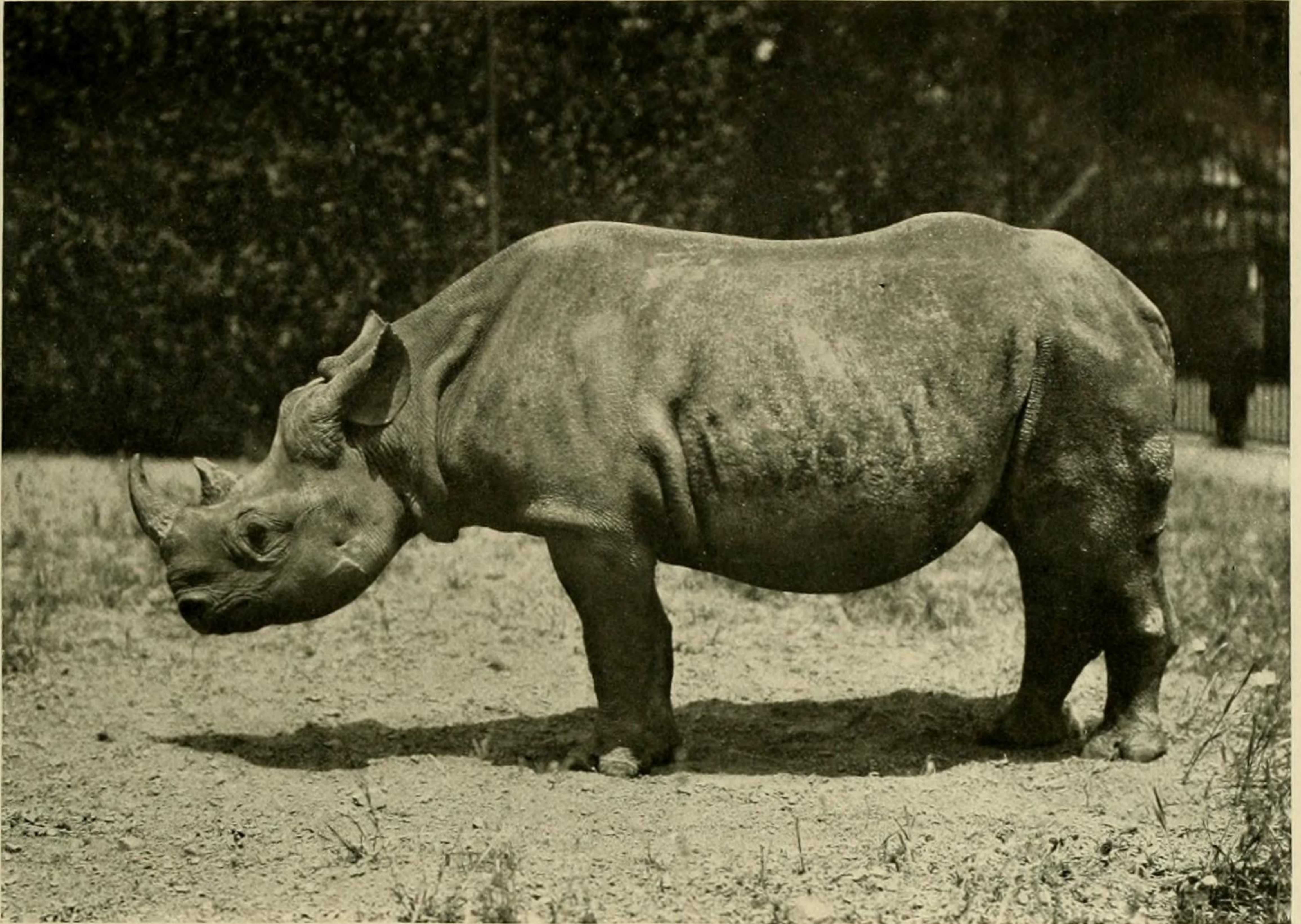
The cornice, or frieze, of the main central building of the Elephant House is ornamented by about twenty sculptured heads of the rhinoceros, tapir and hippopotamus. In the interior of the building, each column in the lines of cage-

fronts bears a small elephant head, in high relief, sculptured in stone.

Each of the eight immense cages, that are to contain elephants and rhinoceroses, has been designed to frame and display its living occupant as perfectly as a frame fits a picture. The vaulted ceilings and large central skylights are particularly well adapted to cages for extra-large animals, and the lighting is quite perfect. The front of each cage—24 feet—is spanned aloft by a single Gustavino arch, and is unspoiled by intermediate columns. Each cage is 24 x 24 feet, which is ample for elephants and rhinoceroses of the largest size. To a height of 6 feet the walls are lined with plates of quarter-inch steel; and nothing less powerful than a locomotive could break through or break down the front bars and beams. The outside doors are marvels of strength and smoothness in action. They are of four-inch oak, reinforced with quarter-inch steel plates, and on the inside they are strengthened against attack by three heavy movable beams of steel.



SIDE ELEVATION OF THE ELEPHANT HOUSE.
View taken from the south. The yards will occupy the open space to the right and left in front of the building.



AFRICAN TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS, "VICTORIA."

The Zoological Society has two animals of this species, a male and a female.

On the south side of the building are four cages for elephants, on the north are two cages for rhinoceroses, and two for hippopotami. At each end of the building are two smaller cages, for tapirs or young elephants or rhinoceroses. The hippopotamus cage is provided with a bathing tank, and so are two of the tapir cages. As usual, this building is heated by hot water, and thoroughly ventilated.

Of course each indoor cage has for its occupant a spacious open-air yard, in which the animal may wander at will without the ability to harm any person or thing. For the elephant yards there are two fences. The extra heavy inside fence of steel bars is to prevent the elephants from reaching visitors, and the outside fence, of $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch round bars seven feet high, is to prevent visitors from reaching the elephants. The yards and fences cannot be completed earlier than May, 1909, but they will be ready upon the coming of warm weather. In several of the yards some very elaborate and extensive concrete floor work will be necessary to preserve valuable oak trees from the injury that would surely follow the laying of ordinary macadam

paving. The concrete floors are to be raised, to leave the roots of certain trees almost untouched.

The total cost of the Elephant House was \$157,473 exclusive of the fences, yards and walks. The building has been erected by the F. T. Nesbit Company, with Mr. John C. Coffey as superintendent of construction, and it is a fine, perfect and thoroughly satisfactory piece of work. It is doubtful if the City of New York has ever before secured so fine and large a building as this for the really small sum that this one has cost. It is impossible to name the date on which it will be received by the Society, occupied, and opened to the public, but in all probability it will be about November 1, 1908.

W. T. H.

New Mammals:—Since July 1, the following important animals have been received:

1 Indian Elephant.	2 Otters.
1 Chimpanzee.	1 Cacomistle.
1 Orang utan.	1 Brown Lemur.
1 Malay Tapir.	3 European Roe Deer.
3 Clouded Leopards.	14 Squirrels.