



GROUP OF YOUNG GIRLS FROM A LOWER EAST-SIDE SCHOOL.

Thousands of school pupils, conducted by their teachers, annually visit the Zoological Park.

NEW YORK, Sept. 1st., 1907.

To the Editor of the

*New York Staats-Zeitung*:

"As a supplement to your article headed 'In the Lion House,' which appeared in No. 208 of the *New York Staats-Zeitung*, we take the liberty to send you, in a few words, the views of the German zoologists on your zoological garden. The article mentioned is incomplete, for the reason that it does not do justice to the many superior features.

"Among all existing zoological parks, there is none in which the animals are found in such absolutely natural conditions as here in New York. The extent of the ranges for deer, bisons, etc., and the imposing flying cage, had the undivided admiration of all the scientists present. Added to this is the great number of interesting forms of animals, especially of the American fauna, and last but not least, is the surprisingly large number of individuals.

"The past attainments give a guarantee that the New York Zoological Garden, upon completion, is sure to take a specially pre-eminent position among institutions of its kind."

(Signed) Professors Braun, Heymons  
and Bogert.

The latest critical opinion on the New York Zoological Park is that of Dr. Walther Schoen-

ichen, of Berlin, which appears in an article on this institution published in the last number of "*Aus der Natur*," with illustrations. Two of its paragraphs are as follows:

"There are few places in the world where all desirable conditions have been fulfilled in so excellent a manner, as in the Zoological Garden in New York. Although it has existed only the short space of time since 1899, already it belongs with the most prominent institutions of its kind, and when all of those installations which are now in the course of preparation have been finished, it will surely be the grandest and most beautiful garden in the world.

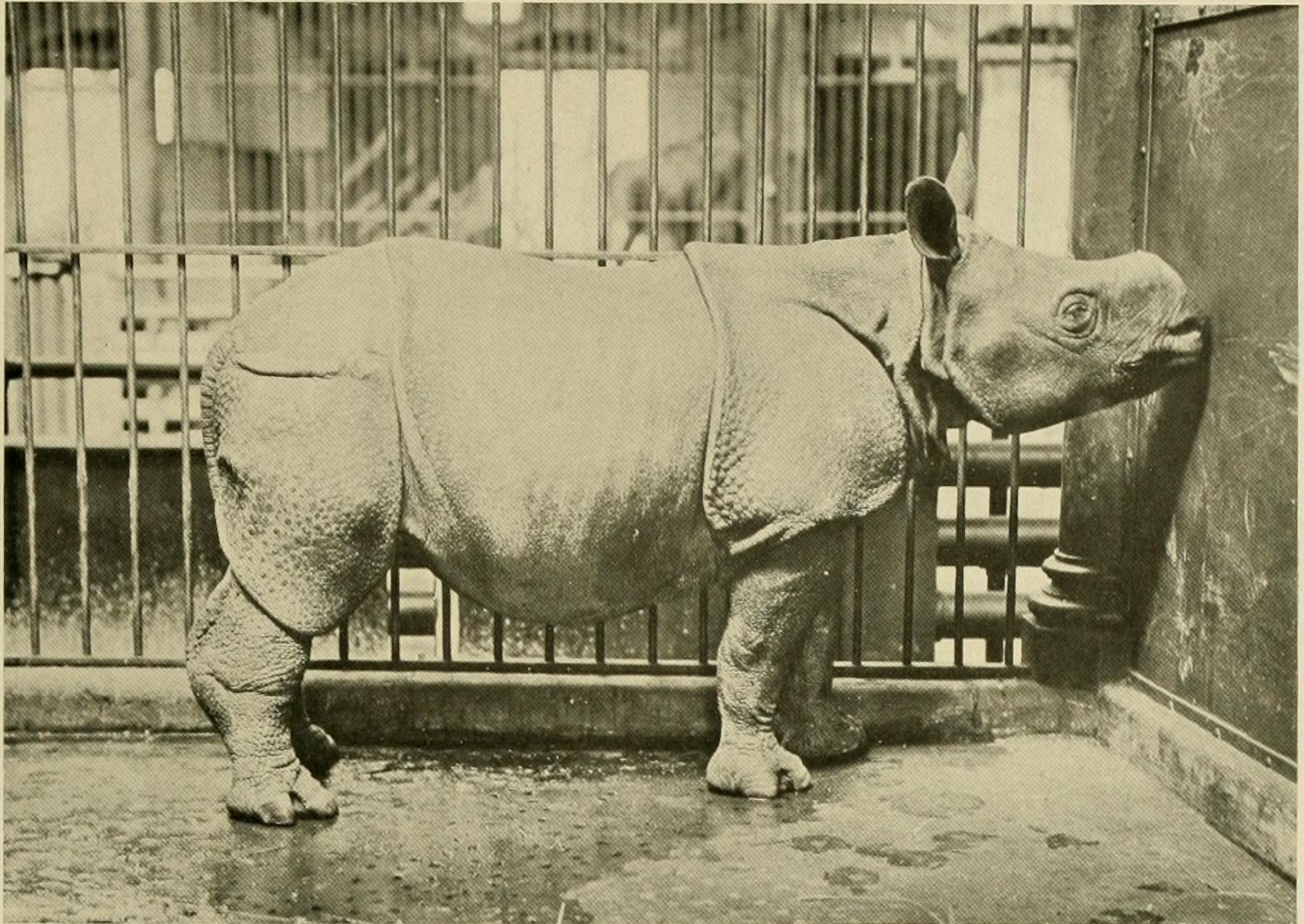
"The farsightedness and devotion with which the Zoological Society has fulfilled this duty, is not the last thing which must fill the visitor to this grand animal park with admiration and inspiration."

W. T. H.

#### INTERESTING ANIMAL SURGERY.

ON May 28, 1908, an interesting and unusual operation—that is unusual in the animal world—was performed on our Indian Rhinoceros, "Mogul," by Dr. George G. Van Mater, of Brooklyn, for cataracts in both eyes. The operation, in medical parlance, is termed "needling," and is primarily a rupturing of the crystalline lens, allowing the humor to escape





INDIAN RHINOCEROS, "MOGUL."

into the anterior or aqueous humor, where a process of slow absorption takes place. A cataract is not, as most people suppose, a growth over the ball of the eye, but a gradual change of the humor in the crystalline lens, to a milky opacity, eventually destroying the sight. "Mogul" was captured in 1906, and upon his arrival at the Park, it was noticed that the right eye had been injured. Gradually the defect communicated itself to the left eye, in time rendering the animal nearly blind. Dr. Van Mater diagnosed the case as cataract and advised the "needling" operation which is only practicable in soft or young growth cataract. "Mogul" was cast, by means of combination side lines and hobbles, with considerable difficulty, requiring the united aid of Drs. Blair, Ryder and Ellis, and a number of the keepers, to effectually subdue him. Dr. Gwathmey administered the anesthetic, using a mixture of chloroform and ether. Fully an hour elapsed before the animal succumbed, exhausting in its struggles one and one-half pounds of chloroform and three-quarters of a pound of ether. As is quite well known, the eye is the surgeon's index of the patient's condition under anesthetics, and as

this was the point of operation, it was then necessary to resort to local anesthesia, rendering Dr. Gwathmey's task a difficult one. Dr. Van Mater then punctured both capsules with a delicate knife of peculiar and ingenious construction. The incision in the cornea was a thin slit, but after penetrating the front of the crystalline lens, the blade was turned in the handle, as it was drawn back, making a T shaped cut, which allowed the humor to flow into the anterior chamber. The blade then being turned back on its axis necessarily passed through the cornea in exactly the same place as it entered, effectually preventing the thin humor of the anterior chamber from escaping. The operation was bloodless and painless. The animal, despite the enormous amount of anesthetic taken, was standing upon his feet within forty minutes after the operation. He is recovering the use of the left eye. The right one, being an advanced growth, is yet cloudy.

The work consumed nearly three hours, and the services of the operating surgeons, Drs. Van Mater and Gwathmey and their assistants, Drs. Ryder and Ellis, were gratuitous.

E. R. S.