

THE
BOY'S OWN BOOK
OF
NATURAL HISTORY

BY THE
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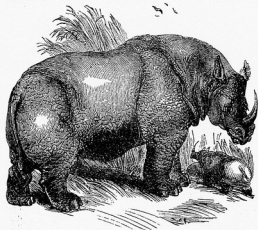
WITH THREE HUNDRED AND THIRTY ILLUSTRATIONS

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Only the male possesses the remarkable double pair of tusks, the female being destitute of the upper pair, and only possessing those belonging to the under jaw in a rudimentary degree. It lives in troops, as do most of the hog kind, and thus does great damage to the cultivated grounds, especially to the maize, a plant to which it is, unfortunately, very partial. It is a good swimmer, and often voluntarily takes to the water in order to cross to another island. The size of the animal when full grown is about that of a very large hog.

The RHINOCEROS.—There are, apparently, six species of this formidable animal, inhabiting various parts of Asia

RHINOCEROS.—(Gr. *ῥίς*, or *ῥίς*, a nose ; *κέρας*, a horn.)



Unicornis (Lat. *Unus*, one ; *cornu*, a horn), the *Rhinoceros*.

and Africa. They can be distinguished from each other by the number and shape of their horns, and the colour of their bodies. Their habits are much alike.

The Rhinoceros is always a surly and ill-tempered animal, and is much given to making unprovoked attacks on man and beast, if it should happen to fancy itself insulted by their presence. Their chief peculiarity, the so-called horn, is a mass of fibres matted together, and closely resembling the structure of whalebone. Their feet are divided into three toes, incased in hoofs. The horn is not connected with the skull, but is merely a growth from the skin, from which it can be separated by means of a sharp penknife. Being made of very strong materials, it is employed in the manufacture of ramrods, clubs, and other similar implements. When properly worked, it is capable of taking a very high polish, and is often cut into drinking cups.

The organs of scent of the Rhinoceros are very acute, and as the creature seems to have a peculiar faculty for detecting the presence of human beings, it is necessary for the hunters to use the greatest circumspection when they approach it, whether to avoid or to kill, as in the one case it may probably be taken with a sudden fit of fury, and charge at them, or in the other case, it may take the alarm and escape.

The upper lip is used by the Rhinoceros as an instrument of prehension, with which it can grasp the herbage on which it feeds, or pick up small fruit from the ground. The very tame Rhinoceros in the Zoological Gardens will take a piece of bun or biscuit from a visitor's hand by means of its flexible upper lip.

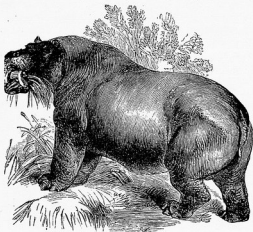
The HIPPOPOTAMUS.—There is, in all probability, but one species of Hippopotamus. It inhabits Africa exclusively, and is found in plenty on the banks of many rivers in that country, where it may be seen gambolling and snorting at all times of the day.

These animals are quiet and inoffensive while undisturbed, but if attacked, they unite to repel the invader, and have been known to tear several planks from the side of a boat, and sink it. They can remain about five or six minutes under water, and when they emerge they make

a loud and very peculiar snorting noise, which can be heard at a great distance.

The hide is very thick and strong, and is chiefly used for whips. The well-known "cow-hides" are made of this material. Between the skin and flesh is a layer of fat, which is salted and eaten by the Dutch colonists of Southern Africa. When salted it is called Zee-koe speck, or Sea-cow's bacon. The flesh is also in some request.

HIPPOPOTĀMUS.—(Gr. ἵππος, a Horse ; ποταμός, a river.)



Amphibius (Gr. ἄμφι, on both sides ; βίωω, I live), the *Hippopotamus*.

The Hippopotamus feeds entirely on vegetable substances, such as grass and brushwood. The fine animal now in the possession of the Zoological Society eats all kinds of vegetables, not disdaining roots. This individual is peculiarly interesting from being the first Hippopotamus brought to Europe for many hundred years, and is in all probability the first that has ever reached this country.