

THE  
SCIENCE RECORD

FOR

1873.

A COMPENDIUM

OF

SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS AND DISCOVERY

DURING THE PAST YEAR.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

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NEW-YORK:

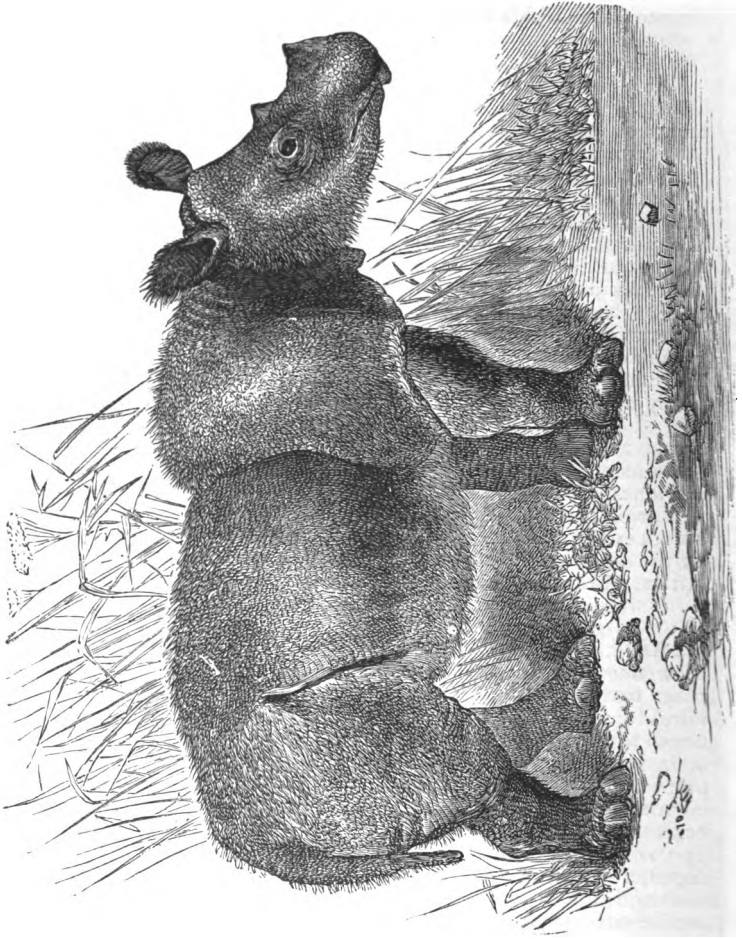
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1873.

**NATURAL HISTORY AND ZOOLOGY.****A NEW RHINOCEROS.**

THE acquisition of a living rhinoceros belonging to a species hitherto unknown to science, is certainly a remarkable event, and one that may well give comfort to those who may have supposed that the field of zoölogical discovery is worked out. If so large a beast has hitherto escaped the observation of naturalists, how many smaller animals must there still remain for the zoölogical explorer. But the truth is, that we know less about some of these very bulky animals than those of more moderate dimensions, as their very size renders the collection and preparation of specimens of them more difficult. The importation of such monsters in a living state is a still more serious undertaking, and it is only within the last few years that the Zoölogical Gardens of Europe have become wealthy and enterprising enough to find funds for such expensive luxuries.

The animal of which we are now speaking was originally captured near Chittagong, at the northernmost extremity of the Bay of Bengal, in January, 1868, by some officers engaged in the supply of elephants for the Indian army. Some natives came into the station, and reported that a rhinoceros had fallen into a quicksand, at a place about sixteen hours' journey to the south, and had been unable to extricate itself. They had pulled it out by ropes attached to its neck, and had bound it between two trees, but were fearful of its breaking loose. Captain Hood and Mr. H. W. Wickes accordingly started with eight elephants, and brought the rhinoceros into Chittagong, where she was kept in a stockaded inclosure, "having a good bath excavated in the ground, and a comfortable shed attached to it." Here "Begum," as she was named, remained for nearly four years. Various negotiations were entered into between the Zoölogical Society of London and the capturers, for her removal to England, but these never came to any definite result. Besides the difficulty of arranging terms at such a distance apart, there seemed to be some question about the true ownership of the animal, which created additional embarrassment in the transaction. At length, in the autumn of 1871, Mr. William Jamrach, the well-known dealer in living animals, being personally in Calcutta, was



NEW HAIRY-EARED RHINOCEROS, [RHINOCEROS LAS IOTIS.]

able to conduct the negotiations to a successful result, and on his return to England, in February, 1872, brought the animal with him. Upon her arrival, "Begum" was immediately purchased by the Zoölogical Society, to whom, it was understood, the first offer was to be made for the sum of \$6250.

The Chittagong animal is proposed to be called the hairy-eared rhinoceros, (*Rhinoceros lasiotis*), from its peculiar ear-fringe of long hairs. How far the Sumatran rhinoceros extends north along the Malayan peninsula is not yet ascertained, because, although two-horned rhinoceroses are known to occur in several intermediate localities, it is uncertain to which of the species they belong. The range of *R. lasiotis* is likewise quite a matter of uncertainty at present, the animal being utterly unknown except from the individual in the Zoölogical Society's Gardens. But it is probable that it extends into Assam, where there are reports of the occurrence of a two-horned species of rhinoceros.

By the addition of the animal to their menagerie the Zoölogical Society have now been able to exhibit side by side specimens of four (out of the six certainly known) living species of rhinoceros—a wonderful advance, when we consider that a very few years ago the Indian *Rhinoceros unicornis* was alone known in Europe in a living state. The two species remaining to be obtained are the Javan rhinoceros, (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*), a smaller representative of the one-horned Indian, and the white rhinoceros of Africa, (*Rhinoceros simus*.) (47)

#### INTELLIGENCE IN MONKEYS.

I HAVE, says Prof. Cope, two species of *Cebus* in my study, *C. capucinus*, and a half-grown *C. apella*. The former displays the usual traits of monkey ingenuity. He is an admirable catcher, seldom missing any thing, from a large brush to a grain, using two hands or one. His cage-door is fastened by two hooks, and these are kept in their places by nails driven in behind them. He generally finds means, sooner or later, to draw out the nails, unhook the hooks, and get free. He then occupies himself in breaking up various objects and examining their interior appearances, no doubt in search of food. To prevent his escape, I fastened him by a leather strap to the slats of the cage; but he soon untied the knot, and then relieved himself of the strap by cutting and drawing out the threads which held the flap for the buckle. He then used the strap in a novel way. He was accustomed to catch his food (bread, potatoes, fruit, etc.), with his hands when thrown to him;