

February 19, 1884.

Osbert Salvin, Esq., F.R.S., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The Secretary made the following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during January 1884:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of January was 120, of which 7 were by birth, 39 by presentation, 37 by purchase, and 37 on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 125.

The most noticeable additions during the month were:—

1. A young female Babirussa (*Babirussa alfurus*), born January 16th, 1884, of one of the females presented by Dr. F. H. Bauer, C.M.Z.S., in July 1883. This is the first instance of this singular animal having bred in the Society's Gardens.

2. A young example of a small species of Cormorant, apparently the African Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax africanus*), purchased January 31st, 1884, and said to have been received from Sierra Leone. This species is new to the Society's Collection.

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Mr. Sclater laid on the table a copy of the lately-issued 'Guide to the Calcutta Zoological Gardens,' by Dr. John Anderson, F.R.S., and called special attention to the following passage respecting an example of *Rhinoceros lasiotis* living in those Gardens since June 1882:—"The specimen of *R. lasiotis* is an adult female which was caught near Chittagong, on the estate of Begum Latifa Khatum of Ramu, and the following account of its capture appeared in the 'Englishman' of the 17th June, 1882:—

"This Rhinoceros was captured by the Begum's retainers. A shikaree had gone out to hunt, and when he had reached some paddy fields, he was told by the ryots, who were there at work, that an animal had come out from the jungle on to the fields, and that it was neither a gayl, nor a buffalo, nor an elephant. The shikaree at once sent a messenger to the Begum, asking that assistance might be sent to capture the animal, and, in a short time, a large number of people had arrived armed with sticks. The locality to which the beast had retired presented facilities for its capture, as it was a small isolated hill or *teelah* separated from the high range of mountains to the east. The shikaree arranged his men between the *teelah* and the main range with instructions not to allow the animal to escape in that direction, but that if it made for an adjoining *jheel*, or for an open slope towards the village, it was to be allowed to pass by either of these ways, as it would be possible to noose it in the *jheel*, and to capture it if it went to the village. The animal, however, refused to show itself, and did not come out of the dense jungle; but the would-be captors were aware that it was moving round the *teelah*, and at length the shikaree, by climbing a tree, was able to make out that it was a Rhinoceros. They then tied a number of ropes to the branches



of the trees, letting them hang down as nooses, in the course the animal was following. In a short time their labour was rewarded, as it ran its head first into one noose, and then into another, tearing them away, however, from the trees, and, in its excitement, rushing out on to the open slope leading to the village, dragging the ropes after it. By this time it was somewhat exhausted, for it fell in a muddy hollow, where it was immediately surrounded, secured by ropes, and ultimately dragged into the village. Three days afterwards, the male made its appearance from the same teelah, but unfortunately an effort made to capture it did not prove successful. The female rapidly became tame and tractable, and was introduced into the Zenana, where it soon established itself as a favourite, more especially with the children, who used to ride as safely on its back as the London children did on Jumbo. Begum Latifa Khatum, when she became aware that the Committee for the management of the Calcutta Gardens were in quest of Rhinoceroses, with very great self-denial, public spirit, and liberality made up her mind to part with the favourite of the Zenana, and telegraphed to the Committee that it was her intention to present this Rhinoceros to the Gardens."

Mr. Sclater observed that this animal was of special interest to the Society, because the only previously known example of this Rhinoceros, upon which the species had been based, was the specimen obtained in 1869, also from Chittagong, and still living in the Society's Gardens<sup>1</sup>.

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Mr. W. T. Blanford, F.R.S., F.Z.S., read the following Report on the Collection of Drawings of Himalayan Birds lately presented to the Society's Library by Mr. Brian H. Hodgson, F.Z.S. :—

"The collection of drawings of birds presented to the Society by Mr. Hodgson, and recently received from Mr. Hume, is of very great value and importance, and the Society is under deep obligations to the liberal donor for this magnificent addition to its library. The whole series comprises 1104 sheets of drawings, on some of which single birds are represented, on others several. Nearly all the drawings are coloured; all, with very few exceptions, are good; many are excellent. In addition to the coloured figures of the birds themselves, many illustrations of nests, eggs, and young are added, together with, in many cases, details of structure and anatomy; the feet, tongues, gizzards, and sterna of very many species being represented. The sheets, too, are in most cases covered with MS. notes on the birds depicted. In all respects the drawings are similar to those of Himalayan Mammalia, already presented by Mr. Hodgson to the Society's library.

"These drawings are the originals from which the copies in the British Museum were taken, and, together with the MS. notes on the same sheets, form the record of Mr. Hodgson's wonderfully comprehensive observations during his long residence in Nipal and Sikkim. Those countries, when Mr. Hodgson commenced his studies,

<sup>1</sup> Cf. List of Animals (1883), p. 126.