

NEW ASIATIC RHINOCEROS.

DR. P. L. SCLATER, the secretary to the Zoological Society of London, has read to the British Association, a paper on a New Asiatic Rhinoceros. On the 14th of February the society received at the gardens in the Regent's Park a female two-horned rhinoceros, which had been taken near Chittagong by Captain Hood four years previously. The animal was at first believed by the writer and others to be an example of the *Rhinoceros Sumatrensis* of Cuvier, that being the only species of two-horned rhinoceros then recognised by naturalists. The acquisition of a female of the veritable Sumatran rhinoceros from Malacca had enabled Dr. Sclater to decide that the one first named belonged to a different species, which he proposed to call *Rhinoceros lasiotis*, on account of its most obvious external peculiarity, the long hairs which fringe the ears. He considered that there were now six well-defined species of rhinoceros, of which four belonged to the Asiatic and two to the African group. In reply to Mr. George Jefferys and Major-General Strachey, Dr. Sclater said it was not impossible that the rhinoceros referred to might belong to the same group as the taperine rhinoceros. He thought it desirable that a search should be made in the caves on the banks of the Indus for the remains of extinct specimens. Dentition had been so completely worked out by Dr. Falkner that if any teeth were found he could determine to what species the animal had belonged.

THE HAIRY RHINOCEROS.

A fine specimen of the *Rhinoceros Sumatrensis*, brought over to England by Mr. William Jamrach, and purchased by the Zoological Society, has been deposited in her new home at the Gardens, Regent's Park. The den or cage in which the animal came to this country was of such gigantic proportions that it was found impossible to get it into any of the gateways belonging to the menagerie; Mr. Bartlett, the able superintendent, therefore determined to back the "trolley" against the palings, and having previously removed a portion of them, the work of tethering the brute was commenced. Fortunately, the animal is of a docile disposition, otherwise Mr. Bartlett and his assistants would have had a hard task. The roping having been completed, the huge door was removed, and the animal issued slowly forth, having carefully surveyed all round, and the men giving a pull at the leading rope, she started for her journey to the elephant house. She behaved remarkably well, and with a little gentle manipulation of the ropes and with many a snort was led to her new domicile. She now stands in the next apartment to the large male Indian rhinoceros. This is the second of this rare species ever brought to Europe, a much smaller one having been landed in London about a month previously, and forwarded to the Zoological Gardens at Hamburg. Mr. Wm.

Jamrach also brought over with him an extraordinary collection of wild animals, consisting of three tigers, two large tiger cats, five elephants, one male Indian rhinoceros, five cassowaries, some gigantic storks, and a large number of smaller animals and birds. It is remarkable that this large collection was brought over from India through the Suez Canal without a single accident or death.

Mr. F. Buckland writes in *Land and Water*:—"The collection in the gardens of the Zoological Society in the elephant house is just now a grand sight. There are four elephants—two Indian, two African—and four rhinoceroses—one Nubian (probably the Muchoch or 'white rhinoceros' of Gordon Cumming), two single-horned Indian rhinoceroses, and lastly the new arrival, the double-horned Sumatran rhinoceros. The peculiarity of this beast—I cannot call it handsome—is that it is hairy. The great pig-like, watchful, ever-moving ears are fringed with a row of long erect hairs, giving the appearance of a horse wearing worsted ear-caps to keep off the flies. The hair on the back is something like the hog mane of a horse, and of the rusty sand colour of the old-fashioned Berkshire pig. The sides are also covered with this kind of hair, only shorter. The rest of the body is covered with a shortish light down, like the hair on a baby's head. The physiognomy is not like that of other rhinoceroses. 'Begum'—for she is a lady rhinoceros—has an ancient and antediluvian look about her, and very likely the old English *Rhinoceros trichorhinus*, whose bones my father discovered in the celebrated hyæna cave in Kirkdale, in Yorkshire, had the same kind of phiz. Her face is covered with wrinkles. There is a great 'crow's foot' on her cheek, and deep wrinkles round her eyes, so that she has somewhat the appearance of a very aged disagreeable old man. She has also the peculiarity of shutting her lower eyelid instead of the upper, when she wants to take 'forty winks.' Although called the Sumatran rhinoceros, 'Begum' was caught near Chittagong, and was partly led and partly driven, with ropes round her legs, like a pig going to market, all the way through the jungle from that place to the river, a task which does Mr. Jamrach much credit. She travelled best at night, and would then follow her keeper, who walked in front with a lighted lantern kept close to the ground. The guide used to sing to her at night as she trotted along, and the natives joined in chorus. In the streets of Calcutta she lay down like a sulky pig, and they had to wet the road so as to make it semi-mud, and drag her along bodily. She was shipped on board the steamer Petersburg at Calcutta and brought direct to the Millwall Docks in a gigantic cage made of teak. The transfer of this valuable animal—for she cost more than 1,000*l.*—from her travelling-box to the elephant house along the path was effected by Mr. Bartlett with his usual ability and tact. He was, of course, assisted by Mr. Jamrach, who knew the habits of the animal well. She had to walk

comparatively loose some 60 or 80 yards. Mr. Bartlett has just performed a successful operation on a rhinoceros. The front horn of the Indian rhinoceros had become bent and diseased. Mr. Bartlett has cleverly amputated this horn with a sharp saw, and this without the least injury or inconvenience to the animal. The portion of horn cut off weighed $8\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., and the 'old gal looks quite young again.'"

THE BABY HIPPOPOTAMUS.

MR. FRANK BUCKLAND, writing in *Land and Water*, says:—"Guy Fawkes, now seventeen days old, has grown tremendously. His little brother, whose cast I made, and which is now in the giraffe-house, weighed 99 lbs. Guy Fawkes weighs at least 160 lbs. now, and is certainly a great deal bigger than when I saw him this day week. He sucks freely, and has begun to eat of his own accord. The cleverly-prepared 'Ridge's Infant's Food,' which Mr. Bartlett concocts for him out of goat's milk and other delicacies, he laps up with avidity. He is a merry little fellow, and when in a frolicsome humour jumps and skips about as if he had just begun to enjoy life. I think he is more like his father than his mother in face. He continues to follow his mamma in and out of the water, and has several times remained under water without coming up to blow for 15 to 20 minutes at a time, but Mr. Bartlett is not now alarmed at this, as he knows it is the habit of the animal. As the mother floats in the water her back looks like a great barrel. Every now and then her young one comes to the surface by her side, opens his great calf-like eyes, shakes his ears, fills his lungs with air, and then closes his eyes and sinks down again suddenly without the least noise. He only exposes his head, which he pops down quickly, like a gigantic horse-pond frog. Mr. Bartlett believes that he sucks when under water. The mother, who is very short in her temper, shows great intelligence, cunning, and watchfulness. She has had a row with the gate leading into the bath, when she managed, somehow or other, to champ it open with her monstrous teeth; but they have managed to put this quite right again. I understand that the authorities have determined to admit the Fellows of the Society on Sunday next (yesterday), between 2 and 4 o'clock; but this must depend upon the behaviour of the mother hippopotamus, for if she becomes irritated the gates must necessarily be closed again. She soon loses her temper, and it takes a long time to recover it, and there is still a fear that, if greatly enraged, she may injure her calf. I trust, therefore, that she and her young one will be out of the water, when they can be seen on their first reception day, and that the mother will be civil and good-tempered to those who may leave their cards of inquiry upon her."