THE WHITE RHINOCEROS (RHINOCEROS SIMUS).

SIR,-Mr Lydekker's recent "Notes on Rhinoceroses Ancient and Modern," have been extremely interesting to me, as no doubt to other readers of the Field. More especially his notes on the white or Burchell's rhinoceros, a species now unhappily extinct, or all but

extinct, are for naturalists full of a melancholy interest.

The enormous white rhinoceros, distinguished mainly from its The enormous write 'minoceros, distinguished mainly from its black cousin of Africa by its vaster size, its more sluggish habits, its prolongate forehorn, immense head, and blunt upper lip, adapted so evidently to its grass eating habits, is now, I fear, from the reports of Mr F. C. Selous and other hunters, extinct, or on the verge of extinction. The beautiful true quagga (Equus quagga), another extinction. The beautiful true quagga (hoque quagga), anosine very interesting form, has been (as I pointed out two or three years back) the first to disappear from the once crowded natural game preserves of Southern Africa. The monstrous white rhinoceros seems destined to stand second on the list of a vanished fauna.

After coming down country last year, I stayed some few weeks at Atter coming down country last year, I stayed some rew weeks at Cape Town, during which time—thanks to the kindness of Mr Roland Trimen—my friend Mr G. E. Yale and I photographed several natural history specimens in the Cape Town Museum. Among soveral natural misory specimens in the cape flown absolute. Among these was the head of the last white rhinoceros brought down country. This head belonged to an animal shot after much trouble and search by Mr Selous in Mashonaland some ten years since; and, and search by Mr Selous in Mashonaland some ten years since; and, it is undoubtedly the last (almost the only specimen) now left to us of an exceedingly rare and singular form. The forehorn is not so straight or so prolonged as in some specimens obtained in bygone years, when this animal wandered over nearly all South Africa: but, on the whole, the head is a good and a typical one. Mr Lydekker gives the extreme recorded length of such a horn as 57 in. over the content of the content of the product of the content of the conten probably never be beaten. Yet in the old days, when Rhinoceros simus abounded, and every chief's ambition was to possess a long kerrie or staff fashioned from the forehorn of this beast, some of extraordinary measurement must have been in existence. There are still here and there in South Africa, in remote places, such kerries, but they are scarce, and the traders and hunters have had the pick of them. Probably at this day in England, in forgotten places and remote corners, some of these staffs are lying away in forgotten obscurity.

It has been the fashion to assume, since Cornwallis Harris's day, that the white rhinoceros was never found south of the Orange River. Undoubtedly in modern times (seventy or eighty years past) it was not; but there has always been a tradition, supported by Barrow and other travellers, that the mighty quadruped once wandered and fed in the open grassy wastes of Great Bushmanland, as well as in the country open graces wasces of Green Bashananan, so went and the character to the open plains of the South Kalabari and other adjacent districts; the Orange River at certain seasons is easily fordable, and there seems to be no sound reason, other than a purely captious geo-graphical distribution, why the white rhinoceros should not have

formerly grazed in this part of Cape Colony. The enormous bulk and height of this animal may be partly gauged if it be remembered that specimens were formerly slain gauged if it be remembered that specimens were formerly size standing more than 6 ft. high, measuring between 18tt. and 19tt. in length, and possessing a bulk in proportion to these measurements. Even the African elephant is dwarfed by comparison,

although of course standing much higher at the shoulder.

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Notwithstanding its vast bulk, the white rhinoceros could display upon occasion immense quickness and speed, as the great hunter accompanion of Livingstone, Mr Oswell, and others can testify. As far as can be at present learned, the white rhinoceros has been exterminated, even in its last strongholds in North-east Mashonland. In Ngamiland and the North Kalahari region, where formerly it was plentiful, it has been, as I ascertained while hunting in that direction in 1890, finished for some years past. It seems to be quite clear that no specimen has ever been known north of the Zambesi

Probably the head of Mr Selous's last specimen is also absolutely the last relic of the once abundant Rhinoceros simus. It is, indeed, a thousand pities that no complete skin of the entire animal has

ever been brought to Europe.

SPORT IN FRANCE

The Racinco which takes place in France during the interval between the Grand Prix and the first appearance of the twogear-olds in the beginning of August is never very interesting, and
it has been less so than usual this year, as one or two of the best
permitted and the prison of the servine of the best of the permitted and the per

de Schiokler has entered Carabiniero, a brother to Caballero, who was considered better than Chène Royal and Fra Angelico, but met with the control of the c

THE NATURALIST.

NEW AFRICAN ANTELOPES.

WITHIN THE LAST FEW MONTHS I have had the good conditions that are noteworthy. Amongst the wast number of head and skins that come to me for preservation, particularly from Africa and skins that come to me for preservation, particularly from Africa greater insportance, inasments as it leads to the recognition by covaries of the specimens; and now and them the discovery is of considerance, inasments as it leads to the recognition by covaries the properties of the specimens; and now and them the discovery is of the specimens; and now and the control of the control of the specimens; and now and the control of the specimens; and now and the control of the specimens of the sp



Fig. 1. Head of ORIX CALLOTIS.

Seneral colour of the skin, which is much browner than that of its congeners, particularly on the head. So far as at present known this antelope is found only in Masailand and contiguous regions. The example of which the head is now figured came from Kilimanjaro, and was described by Mr Oldfield Thomas, F.Z.S., at a meeting of the Zoological Society in March last; the type being now in the national collection at South Kensington. The property of the control of the



Fig. 2. HEAD OF JACKSON'S HARTEBEESTE (BUBALIS JACKSONI).

Fig. 2. Head of Jackson's Hartebestic (Burbain Jackson').

A second species discovered in like manner is a hartebeste which has been named Bubalin jackson'n by Mr Thomas. It was collected have been the property of the prop



Fig. 3. Skull of Jackson's Hartebreste (Bubalis Jacksoni).

A third new form, perhaps only a variety, is a wildebeeste, or gnu. is a fine creature, closely allied to the South African brindled gnu connochestes taurinus), but having the beard white, instead of dark





It is commendable that in so short a space of time as six months so many new forms should have been brought to light, it may be said, are so much indebted for discoveries iff. African whom naturalizes are so much indebted for discoveries iff. African onvolties have been lost for want of proper identification it would be difficult to say; but if sportsmen having trophies which they are musble to mane would refer them to expect so n their return home, they would lessen the chances of being forestabled in the discovery of the contract of the species here figured that I venture to send only many than the computation. However, we have the species here figured that I venture to send only WARD. new species. It is with the vie to the species here figured that publication. 166, Piccadilly, London, W.

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Sig.—Mr. Lydekher's recent "Notes on Bhinoceros denies and Modern," have been extremely inferential to more so denies and Modern," have been extremely inferential to more so denies and Modern," have been extremely inferential to more so denies to the readers of the Field. More especially his notes on the white or Burchell's Phinoceros, a species now unhappily extinct, or all but extinct, are for naturalists full of a melancholy interest.

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