

In came off in a perfect mat, the cat being in good health at the time.

E. Y. S.

## THE WHITE RHINOCEROS.

SIR,—It may interest some of your numerous readers to learn that, although nearly, if not quite, extinct in all other parts of Africa, the white rhinoceros (*R. simus*) still flourishes in the remoter corners of this country (Zululand). This season alone six specimens of this rare pachyderm have been slain, two of them having fallen to the rifle of that well-known big game hunter Mr C. R. Varndell, who, in company with Sub-Inspector C. C. Foxon, of Zululand Police, enjoyed excellent sport during the past dry season in the low, tse-tse fly-infested country between the lower Black and the White Umvolosi rivers.

The first one shot by Mr Varndell, a fine specimen, with a 3ft. horn, has been preserved, and is, I understand, going home to Messrs R. Ward and Co., of Piccadilly. Besides the rhinos, the two above-mentioned gentlemen enjoyed fine sport with buffalo, blue wildebeest, kudu, zebra (Burchell's), quagga, wart hog, reedbuck, rhebuck, &c., lions and waterbuck being also met with, though, the former being too shy and the latter Royal game, neither were shot at. Mr Varndell also tells me that hippopotamus are very numerous in San Lucia Bay and the rivers to the N.E., but are still Royal game, as are also a herd of sixteen or seventeen elephants, which are known to roam the forest to the north of the Black Umvolosi river.

The great drawback to shooting in this country appears to be the dreaded tse-tse fly, so fatal to all domestic animals, and which necessitates all hunting being done on foot. With the shot gun, though, in the higher country towards the Transvaal, grand sport may be obtained with small buck and birds, including dinker, rhebuck, steinbuck, pauw, koraau, bush pheasant, two or three kinds of partridge, guineafowl, wildfowl of all kinds, plover, quail, &c., the old battle-field of Ulundi being a favourite habitat, in particular, of the above-mentioned smaller game.

C. L. LEATHAM.

Zululand, Oct. 23.

## NOTES AND QUERIES ON NATURAL HISTORY.

