

described the same phenomena in a scientific journal, and unhesitatingly claimed the observations as his own. W. B. TEGETMEIER.

THE RHINOCEROS SIMUS IN NATAL.

SIR,—The inclosed extract from a letter of mine to the *Natal Witness* should interest your readers, as latterly I have noticed correspondence in your columns respecting the nearly extinct *R. simus*. Would you mind giving an editorial note as to the presumed value of a perfect specimen (dead or alive) of *R. simus*? In your issues of April 14 and 21, detailed accounts were given of Mr Coryndon's success, but the value of the specimens was not mentioned.

W. F. FRIMSTONE (late Scots Greys).

'Ngoka, viâ Charlestown, Natal, Aug. 22.

[The following is the note inclosed by our correspondent, who, writing respecting the 'Ngoka hunting party, by whom two rhinoceroses were killed, says :

Both fell to my brother's rifle ('500 Express) and both were single shots. Both are magnificent specimens of old bulls, the horn of the one, *R. simus*, being 2ft. 10in. long, and of the other, *R. bicornis*, 18in. The secondary horn in each specimen was about 8in. It is to be hoped that the white rhinoceros (so-called), *R. simus*, will be added to the list of "Royal" game, as it is very scarce in Zululand and Mashonaland, and extinct elsewhere. As regards the little black rhinoceros (*R. bicornis*), this species was found fairly plentiful; and its inquisitive—not to say aggressive—habits were not appreciated by the Natal natives who accompanied our party. *R. simus* is a tame beast in comparison; hence its rapid extinction.

We regret that we cannot give the information desired. Specimens of this kind have no definite market value. What the Council of the Zoological Society would give for a specimen of a white rhinoceros is uncertain, and would depend greatly on the condition, health, and size of the beast. The specimens obtained by Mr Coryndon were on commission. Should our correspondent think that he has an opportunity of obtaining a specimen fit for transit, we would advise him to write, previous to undertaking any heavy expense, to the Secretary of the Zoological Society, London, as the most likely purchaser.—ED.]

