

its neglect.

AMPUTATION OF THE HORN OF A RHINOCEROS.

THE old female Indian rhinoceros that has been for a dozen years a denizen of the Regent's Park Gardens has for some time had the single horn characteristic of the species growing in an irregular manner, its direction being straight forwards instead of upright. As a consequence of its great weight the under side of the horn pressed upon the upper part of the nose, and produced a considerable amount of irritation, ending in ulceration. This disease could not be remedied until the horn, which was the exciting cause, was removed, and the continuance of the open wound would have inevitably proved fatal to the animal in the forthcoming summer, as it would have soon been fly-blown.

The difficulty of its removal would at first sight have appeared almost insuperable, as the natural moroseness of the beast was intensified by the irritation set up by the pressure of the horn on the sore. Mr Bartlett, however, who possesses that wonderful tact in the management of animals which is the result of a familiar knowledge of their habits, has succeeded in removing the horn without the least difficulty, in spite of the savage disposition of the rhinoceros, which renders the entrance into its den a proceeding of the greatest danger. He commenced by feeding the animal through the wide bars of the cage with bread and cakes every day, and whilst it was eating he rubbed and caressed the face of the huge beast with his hands. These delicate attentions were perfectly appreciated, and as Mr Bartlett shampooed her face and eyes she closed the latter and resigned herself to the soothing sensation as a parrot does to the scratching of her poll. Arrived at this pass, a rough stick was rubbed with a sawing motion backwards and forwards across the horn. This performance also was not objected to, when one fine morning a sharp-set saw was substituted for the stick, whilst Mr Bartlett became doubly assiduous in his perfidious attentions, closing the eyes of the beast with his false caresses, until at last three-fourths of the horn were severed. A few more strokes, and the operation would have been completed; but whether the movement of the saw irritated the sore, or, as is more probable, the leverage of the nearly-severed horn caused it to press on the tender place beneath, the suspicions of the animal were excited; she grunted loudly; the saw was instantly withdrawn; the animal rushed round its