

were out after deer and wild boar. They had already secured stags and three or four pigs; but the day was over, and as they were a considerable distance from home, they determined on spending the night in the forest. While one of them was occupied in looking after the fire and the dogs, the others went down to water the horses in the stream which flowed by about 100 yards off. On the way back one of them caught sight of a dark form, and had just time to shout to his companion when a tiger sprang out upon him. He could do nothing to defend himself, nor could the other Cossack use his rifle, and a moment afterwards the latter saw the tiger disappearing in the thick covert with his companion in its jaws. Shouting to the man at the fire, who quickly joined him, the two hunters accompanied by twelve or fifteen dogs, went off in pursuit. Hardly 200 paces from the spot they came upon the tiger, which now dropped its prey and seized one of the dogs, with which it went off like a cat with a mouse. When picked up the unfortunate man was found to be quite dead; with a single snap of its powerful jaws the tiger had crushed his skull. To follow the brute was useless, as it was then pitch dark. The singular thing about this affair was that the three men could have hunted the neighbourhood all day with their numerous dogs without seeing any trace of the tiger. The latter had evidently been after wild pigs, and must have been starving; otherwise it would not have attacked the Cossack as it did under the circumstances.

RHINOCEROSSES LIVING WITHOUT WATER.

SIR,—In your issue of April 2 I see a letter from Mr Stockley, which on consideration I have decided to answer, notwithstanding the fact that he has admitted my contention that the Bur Dab rhinoceroses do not go "from December to March inclusive" without water. He says, "I have after many inquiries been able to hear of only two places where these rhino ever go for water in the dry season. These are respectively about forty-five and thirty-three miles from their haunts." He carefully refrains from mentioning names, but presumably the more important of these permanent water supplies is Adad.

Mr Stockley seems to think that the haunt of the so-called Bur Dab rhinoceroses is the circumscribed area in which they happened to be when he shot his specimen. As a matter of fact, these very rhino roam very nearly up to Ber, and are constantly seen wandering over the Silweina and other plains to the north of the range. Only recently a fine old bull was killed at Waredad and the horns brought into the local political officer.

Mr Stockley is correct in saying I have not actually been on the top of Bur Dab, but he carefully omits to mention that not only have I shot in the Ain valley immediately at the foot of the range before he entered Somaliland, but that I knew of the existence of these Bur Dab rhinoceroses before he had ever seen one of these pachyderms, not to mention the fact that I have shot several in East Africa.

As regards "Gal Wiyiled," which he is "convinced is a myth," needless to say it is well known by name to the intelligence officers, and also to certain of the officers of his own battalion of the King's African Rifles.

Now that the evacuation of the interior of Somaliland is complete, I might mention that there are several pools on Bur Dab which are of less importance, such as Kal Wabaiyo, Taigarra, and Dundoya. Mr Stockley wrote his letter without telling me, otherwise I might have given him not only the names of these water holes, but my authorities, both European and native, for them.

I might here mention that I have questioned Mifertain, Dholbanta, and Habr Tolfaala tribesmen, who know every inch of Bur Dab, and I have not yet met one who did not know the existence of Gal Wiyiled. As regards the meaning of the words Gal Wiyiled, Mr Stockley, who does not know anything of the language, has thought fit to correct me. It is true that in Larafasse's dictionary will be found the words "biyo gal" meaning pool," but nowhere in the same dictionary will he find the word "gal" meaning place. We talk of "pools" and "pools of water" in the same way that the Somali talks of gal and biyo gal (the word "biyo" meaning water), and where one will hear the word gal used a hundred times one will not hear biyo gal used once. Gal is a common word for a pan or pool of water in both the Somali and Galla languages.

Anyone caring to look at the map of Somaliland will find that the Bur Dab region is one of the best-watered districts in Somaliland, and this, to my mind is the reason why these animals are generally to be found there. While feeding on their favourite food—the small, stunted acacias—rhinoceroses in all probability want more water than when living in the dry season on the evergreen and succulent sanseviera and aloes.

Bulhan, April 22.

P. E. DRAKE-BROCKMAN.

The Czar's Gift to a German Museum.—The little town