

RHINOCEROSES LIVING WITHOUT WATER.

SIR,—Dr Drake Brockman's letter in your issue of May 21 on the above subject is so misleading that it is necessary to correct the impression conveyed by him that "pools" of water are to be found in plenty in the Bur Dab range in the dry season, lest in years to come some unfortunate sportsman should rely on them.

Of the three "pools" named by Dr Brockman, Kal Wabalo is usually dry within six weeks of the end of the rains, and at any time is only a narrow well about 3ft. wide and 15ft. deep, out of which no rhino could possibly get water. It was dry at the end of July last year when I was there. Tigarra is a rock pit equally useless to them. Dundoya I am told is also unapproachable by rhino. All three run dry in the dry season.

There are no "pools" in the dry season, and no open pool of permanent water by the name of Gal Wiyiled was known to any officer in the 6th K.A.R. or intelligence officer. This is most probably Dader Wiyiled, a small well situated close to where I found the rhino; it consists of a deep crack in the rock so narrow that an ordinary bucket cannot be let down into it.

Dr Brockman's knowledge of the Ain Valley is confined to a single trip of ten days or a fortnight in January or February, 1908—some eight months after I arrived in the country—and does not (as he implies) cover an extended knowledge gained by him before I came to Somaliland. I base this statement on notes made by me at the time and on Dr Brockman's own admissions made to me two months ago.

As an example of the unreliability of Somali description I may mention that when the 6th K.A.R. arrived at Badwein last year we were told by Somalis that there was a well of good water within four miles, the water of which was easily get-at-able; an important point, as we had over 700 animals to water. On sending a party there, we found it was seven miles away, and to get at the water one had to get down a rift in the rock and then crawl some thirty yards along a narrow tunnel.

I left out a number of place names in my first letter as they are not marked on the ordinary small scale maps.

I still maintain that the rhino of this district go without water for periods of not less than two months (probably more), and consider that my opinion, being based on carefully collected local information and a personal knowledge of the district of nine months' duration, is far more likely to be correct than that of Dr Brockman, which is based on information gathered at second hand some distance from the district, and a want of personal experience in the locality in question.

I may add that most of the natives whom I questioned went a great deal further than I do, asserting that the rhino never drink at all in the dry season.

C. H. STOCKLEY

Belgaum, India, June 17.

(Capt. 66th Punjabis).

Siberian Roe Breeding in Captivity.—What is probably the first instance of the Siberian roe (*Capreolus pygargus*) breeding in captivity is reported from the Berlin Zoological Garden. The

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