

THE FIELD ANNUAL

SIR,—May we express our sincere appreciation of *The Field Annual*. It is in every way comprehensive and compiled with care and detail seldom met with nowadays, and we would like to offer you our sincere congratulations.

Would you please let me know whether further copies should be ordered through my newsagent or direct from you.

ALAN ELTRINGHAM
(Director and Secretary,
Gaybird, Limited)

Great Missenden, Bucks.

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SIR,—The first *Field Annual* in 100 years ought to be something special and it most certainly is . . . a thoroughly splendid publication and just what one expects from *The Field*. Please send me four more copies . . .

G. L. DAVISON
(Lt.-Col.)

Manchester 2.

ANCIENT AND MODERN

SIR,—It must be seldom, I imagine, that one can find the unusual combination of old and new, seen in the picture I enclose herewith of one of the few remaining fragments of Byland Abbey, Yorks. A conventional field gate is spanned by a graceful arch, which to-day faces directly on to a motor road, from which the photograph was taken.

Harrogate.

B. UNNE

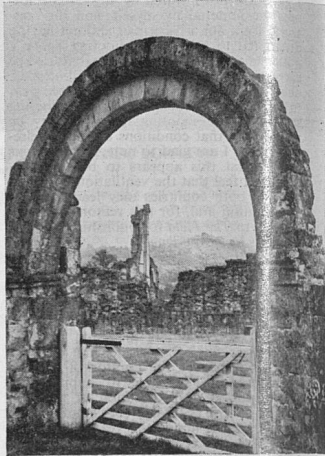
WHITE RHINOCEROS

SIR,—Time marches on! Some 40 odd years ago, I was one of the happy band of poachers in the Lado Enclave on the west bank of the Nile. Those were the days of real safari, when one walked the whole way from Kampala to Hoima and Masindi, crossed the Victoria Nile in dug-outs at the foot of the Murchisan falls, and on to Koba; the motor car and the lorry were then unknown in those parts. From Koba we would either cross the Nile or move up to Wadelai and go over there. The lado swarmed with elephant and white rhino and many other species including, further north, the Derby Eland.

To us the white rhino was new, and I fear scores of them were shot; but one must remember that we knew the black rhino and his "amiable habits" only too well, and when we bumped into a group of five or six animals, obviously of the rhino family, but much larger than the black species, we took no chances and did not wait to find out if they were "friendly old things." With 3ft.-4ft. or more of very sharp horn on their noses, and standing some 6ft. 6in. at the shoulder, I can assure you they did not inspire confidence.

At one time I was commissioned by Newland & Tarlton & Co., of Nairobi, to try and catch two young ones for the Smithsonian Institute of New York. Trying to capture a baby on foot is a very different proposition from rounding it up and lassoo-

ing it from a motor car. The greatest difficulty was to find one small enough for my gun-bearer and I to hold, if we could get near enough. However, after searching for some weeks, we eventually found a cow, and a calf which I thought was sizeable to tackle. Of course, it meant killing the mother, which I did; the calf then ran away, returned to its mother and bolted again as soon as we approached, so finally my "boy" and I crept up and crouched down between the fore and hind legs of the mother and waited; soon the little beast came back and sniffed its way along the mother's back towards her tail; this was a most exciting moment; as soon as it came within reach, my boy, as arranged, seized me round the waist as I put my arms round its neck, and we both jumped on to its back. The strength of the little beast was amazing, and now thoroughly scared it galloped off with us in the saddle through a "wait-a-bit" thorn bush, in which we ignominiously remained very, very scratched and bleeding. It never came back and though we followed for some time, such small tracks were soon lost in the dry ground amongst a maze of others.



BYLAND ABBEY, YORKSHIRE

(See letter "Ancient and Modern")

Foot and mouth disease then broke out in America, and the whole project was cancelled as import was prohibited.

As far as I know, the white rhino is confined entirely to the west bank and the black to the east bank of the White Nile between Lado and Wadelai, which is rather extraordinary, as there must be many places where they could cross the river if they wanted to.

QUENTIN O. GROGAN
P.O. Elgin, Cape Province, S. Africa.