

DISTRIBUTION OF THE WHITE RHINOCEROS.

SIR,—There was a query in the *Field* lately as to whether the white rhinoceros ever occurs on the east bank of the Nile opposite to the Lado enclave, its known habitat. During several years' acquaintance with this locality, I have never heard of one being shot or seen on the east bank of the Nile, nor have I ever heard of a black rhinoceros being shot or seen on the west bank in the Lado. I have often remarked on this fact, and asked officials about it, but have never received any information which would give reason to suppose that the white rhino ever occurs in Uganda territory. Negative evidence is always unsatisfactory, and it is difficult to say to what extent it should be accumulated before a positive statement can be made. Moreover, the rhinoceros holds his head low, and so, unless one saw him facing in very favourable country or at close quarters, it would be impossible to decide the species of any rhinoceros met with. However, from the number shot, it appears to me to be practically certain that the white rhinoceros never occurs in Uganda nor the black rhino in the Lado. Similarly, the Congo buffalo is found in the southern enclave, but does not occur across the Nile.

The rest of the fauna of the two banks of the Nile appear to be identical, and so it is curious that neither species of rhinoceros should ever cross the river. Elephant frequently cross the Nile, and so do other animals on rare occasions. Not so long ago a leopard was shot swimming in the Nile. If other animals can pass from bank to bank, it should be easy for the rhinoceros to do so, and the type of country is identical on both banks.

As far as is known at present, the limits of distribution of the white rhinoceros, besides the Nile to the east, are the Mahagi strip to the south, and about Lat. 6° to the north, where it occurs outside the limits of the Lado enclave. To the west it extends into the western part of the Welle. The exact limits of its range in that direction are not, I believe, clearly known, but according to the reports of Belgian officials both white and black rhinoceros are found intermixed in the neighbourhood of Dongu and Faraje.

C. H. S.

MAN-EATING TIGERS IN BENGAL.

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