

introduced into Teneriffe, where they are bred in the neighbourhood of Oratava.—R. L.

A YOUNG WHITE RHINOCEROS.—It is not a little remarkable that throughout the long period between its original description in 1817 and the year 1893, when full-grown specimens were obtained by Mr R. T. Coryndon, no successful attempt was ever made to procure for any English museum a complete adult skin of the typical southern race of the white rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros simus*), and this, too, in face of the fact that adult skins of the South African black rhinoceros, hippopotamus, and giraffe were exhibited in the galleries of the British Museum at a comparatively early date. Nevertheless, the white rhinoceros was not absolutely unrepresented in the days of its abundance by entire skins in European museums, for at an early date the museum at Leiden was in possession of a mounted skin, which is, I believe, still exhibited there, although whether it belongs to an adult or an immature animal I have no information; and in 1837 the British Museum purchased from the brothers Verreaux the skin of an immature specimen, which was exhibited for many years in the galleries at Bloomsbury, where, by constant dusting and handling by visitors, the surface assumed an appearance not unlike the seat of an old saddle. The brothers Verreaux were natural history dealers, who appear to have made a speciality of the South African fauna, and received many of the specimens collected by Sir Andrew Smith; and it is therefore highly probable that the young white rhinoceros was from that collection. In one of the museum publications (*Cat. Carniv. Pachyderm and Edentate Mamm.*, p. 320, 1869) Dr J. E. Gray referred to this specimen as being that of a well-stuffed young animal; while, in a later volume (*Hand-List Edentate, thick-skinned and Ruminant Mamm.*, p. 52, 1873), it is stated to be that of a half-grown individual. The former description is distinctly flattering, for, as a matter of fact, the mounting was about as bad as it well could be, while the latter would be nearer the mark if it referred to the specimen as representing approximately an animal of about one-third grown. For at least the last dozen years this specimen has been consigned to the limbo of the store series; but a short time ago a careful examination suggested the possibility of its being susceptible of remodelling and remounting. Mr Rowland Ward was accordingly consulted, and, as his report proved favourable, the specimen was confided to his care. In due course, visitors to the Natural History Museum may, therefore, expect to see this interesting specimen placed alongside the adult animal shot by Mr Coryndon. If not absolutely unique—and this depends on the age of the Leiden specimen—it is apparently at least only the second example of the young of the southern race of the white rhinoceros in European museums, and its match is never likely to be procured again, even if any living representatives of that race still survive. The value of the specimen, when properly mounted, will, therefore, be very great.—R. L.

THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Black and Brown Rats.