

## THE SINGPHO RHINOCEROS

SIR,—It would be very interesting to know if any further information has been gained regarding the Singpho Rhinoceros, mentioned by Lydekker in his *Game Animals of India, etc.* When I was on the Kuki Operations in 1919, in the unadministered territory between the Upper Chindwin near Homalin and Manipur, I was told by the Nagas of the existence of what they described as an animal like an elephant, but possessing a horn instead of a trunk. They told me that one of these animals lived near my post, pointing out a hill some three miles away. I accordingly visited the place, which proved to be a swamp on top of a ridge shown on our maps as 8,000ft. above sea level.

In the swamp I found three wallows, two comparatively small ones around which were unmistakable rhino tracks, which I took to be either those of *Sumatrensis* or *Sondaicus*, and the third a very large one, the tracks near which were twice the size of the others. Following the direction of the majority of these larger tracks I found two or three "forms" in the jungle near by, which the animal had obviously used for some considerable time. These "forms" were roughly 12ft. by 6ft., and overhanging one of them was a tree plastered with mud where the animal had rubbed itself. The remarkable point of this was, that the part of the tree which overhung the "form" and was plastered with mud, was, as accurately as I could measure it, 10ft. from the ground. The only explanation I can think of is that the animal had an exceptionally long horn.

No elephants have ever been known to visit this part of the country. I sat up over the swamp or searched the surrounding country nearly every day for the fortnight I remained in the post, with no success, but found traces of both varieties in the jungles.

After I left I do not think that another British officer was sent to this post, which was known as Fort Kearey, and it has now been abandoned. I think this must undoubtedly have been the haunt of a Singpho rhinoceros, as the tracks were too large to have been made by either of the smaller varieties already mentioned.

I am now in an outpost near the Singpho Triangle, one of my posts being on its borders, and I intend making all the inquiries I can regarding this animal.

E. M. W.

[We believe that elephants do occur in the Chindwin district.  
—ED.]