

RHINOCEROS—MOTHER AND YOUNG

SIR,—I was recently wandering along on Mount Kenya when I suddenly found myself within ten yards of a very large rhinoceros, standing in an open glade. It had a yellow front horn with a black tip instead of the usual black horn, and I was working round to make sure it was a bull when a young rhinoceros about four feet high and with a horn three or four inches long, appeared. Going up to the large rhinoceros, which was evidently the young one's mother, he gave her a nudge in the stomach.

She proceeded to lie down on her side, perfectly flat, like a huge sow, and all that moved was one ear. The little rhinoceros then had a good drink of milk. He stood all the time and was remarkably gentle, no pulling or pushing like a pig or puppy. After about a five minutes' long drink, he stopped sucking and began to poke about in the grass. I then coughed loudly, and in a moment the female was on her feet facing the noise with the little one alongside, an absolute miniature copy of his mother, all attention.

After a minute or two, hearing no more noise and getting no suspicious wind, the big rhinoceros, followed closely by the little rhinoceros, disappeared in the forest. The whole episode took place in absolute silence so far as the rhinoceros were concerned, and at a distance of ten yards from me, so that I could observe accurately.

Yours truly,

Nanyuki.

H. ABBAY (Colonel).