

### SMUGGLERS' COUNTRY

SIR,—We were very interested indeed in the article by Mr. G. D. Martineau, "Smugglers' Country" (February 4th), but you might like to know that since that article was written, the Air Ministry have reduced their requirements of land on Beachy Head from 10 acres to three acres, and this will mean very much less interference with the amenities of this lovely headland.

JOHN BATTEN

(Director of Publicity)

County Borough of Eastbourne.

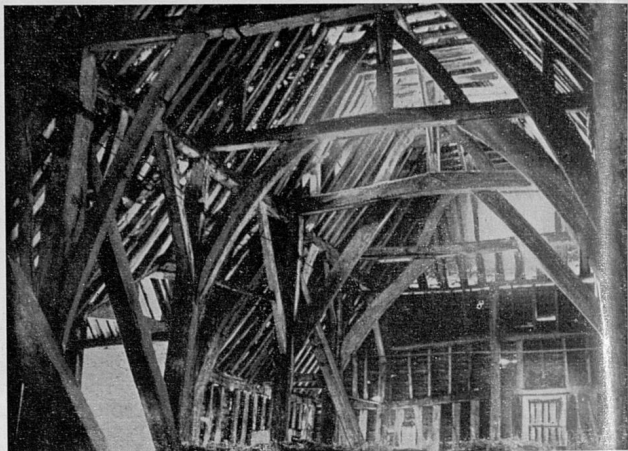
### ROCKALL

SIR,—I read with interest the article by Mr. Seton Gordon in your issue of January

galloped as fast as she could on a course parallel to mine.

Bearing in mind the fantastic rumours one often hears of the speed of these beasts, I carefully checked her speed, when I thought she was doing her maximum. Though it may seem incredible that perspiration could find its way through such a thick skin, the mother was actually sweating when I checked her speed on my speedometer. The calf appeared to have no difficulty in keeping up with its mother, but neither attained a speed of more than 22 miles an hour.

Eventually, the calf lay down behind an acacia thorn bush, but when I approached



A FAMOUS INTERIOR  
(See letter "Cherhill Tithe Barn")

7th. He states, however, that there is an old story of a guillemot's egg being found in a trawl off Rockall, which reminded me that I had heard the same or similar story before the war.

I recently contacted Skipper James Latham, the well-known Rockall fisherman of between the wars, and he informed me that whilst he was in the *S. T. John Cattle* in 1935-36, an egg was picked up in the trawl; Rockall bearing West, 4 miles distant in 86 fathoms.

It was smaller than a hen's egg, but larger than a bantam's, colour sky blue to pale green with brown spots; it was fresh when blown and later handed to an egg collector. Whether it was a guillemot's egg I cannot say, but evidently an egg has been found in a trawl at Rockall.

R. BLYTH  
(Skipper)

Grimsby.

### THE SPEED OF ANIMALS

SIR,—Much has been written on this fascinating subject, but the speed of the smaller animals is often not realised and that of the larger animals generally, especially over Nairobi bar counters, greatly exaggerated. I have, for instance, often heard rash statements alleging that the rhinoceros, an animal weighing about three tons, can achieve a speed of over 40 miles an hour.

While out on the Athi Plains, trying to photograph game, I came across a rhinoceros and calf. As I approached on the windward side, the mother instinctively realised that all was not well and, not knowing where I was (the sight of the rhinoceros is not too good, and they rely more on a keen sense of smell), she

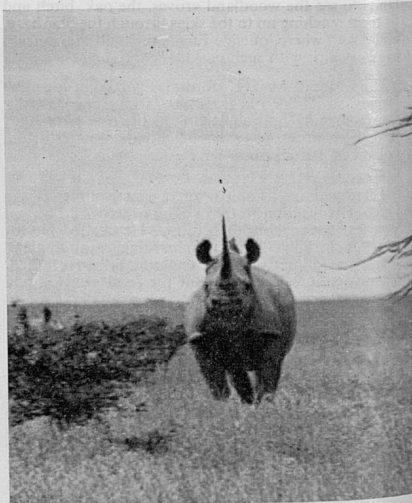
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S. J. MOORE  
(Captain)

Nairobi.



IRATE RHINOCEROS  
(See letter "The Speed of Animals")