

## A BLACK RHINOCEROS

SIR,—We were driving cautiously along a narrow and winding track through the Hluhluwe Game Reserve in Zululand. On each side of us the bush-veld was very thick. On rounding a sharp bend we were startled to see, not more than 50 feet ahead, a black rhino bull. He was ponderously walking away, and his immense bulk—perhaps three to four tons of it—blocked the track for nearly its whole width. We stopped and switched off. Evidently he was unaware of our approach, and it was fortunate for us he was not coming in our direction. After we had watched his slow and cumbersome progress for a few seconds, he turned into the scrub.

We then proceeded as quietly as possible and kept a sharp lookout. Suddenly, on our right some bushes shook, and from them the rhinoceros emerged. We stopped and he stopped. There, within 40 feet of us, stood this grim-looking beast watching our car and partly hidden by a big boulder. I quickly nipped out, and from behind the bonnet of the car got this photograph (*above*) of him. He then turned and disappeared into the undergrowth by the track.

The powers of scent and hearing of the rhinoceros are well developed, but they are short-sighted. To charge, they have to be fairly close to their intended victims; nevertheless, it is wise to keep at a respectful distance and to be ready for any emergency.

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