

without any drawbacks to it. Nobody takes medicine or undergoes an operation for pleasure. We may not at first discover exactly the right cure. But if we do nothing—whether from short-sighted sympathy or any other motive—we proclaim ourselves fatally blind to the symptoms of fast-creeping national decline.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

H. HAMILTON FYFE.

**SOUTH LONDON MUSICAL FESTIVAL.**—The South London Musical Festival, which is presided over by Princess Christian, will hold its next series of competitions at the Wandsworth Town-hall on March 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, and the closing concerts on March 27, when it is hoped that Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein will distribute the prizes at one of the concerts, and that Lady Palmer will preside at the other. The programme announces many new features, among which are a Trinity College of Music scholarship, a challenge shield for choral societies from any district, presented by Sir Henry Kimber, M.P.; another shield for schools is offered by Sir William Lancaster, and a "Bell American organ," value 32 guineas, for mission choirs. The adjudicators are Mr. Henry Bird, Mr. J. T. Field, Mr. Alfred Gibson, Dr. G. F. Huntley, Dr. Walmsley Little, Dr. W. G. McNaught, and Dr. A. Madeley Richardsen. The Trinity College scholarship will be decided by Mr. G. E. Banbridge, Dr. C. W. Pearce, and Dr. John Warriner. The organ contest will be held at St. Nicholas Cole Abbey, Queen Victoria-street, by permission of the Rev. C. N. Kelly and Mr. Herbert Hodge, on Tuesday, March 16.

**THE WHITE RHINOCEROS.**—The Congo Museum, at Tervueren, founded for the purpose of exhibiting the fauna and flora of the Free State, has hitherto lacked a specimen of the northern race of the white rhinoceros (*R. simus cottoni*). This gap in the collection will soon be filled, for the authorities have obtained a fine female specimen, procured by Major Powell-Cotton in the Lado enclave. The animal has been admirably mounted by Mr. Rowland Ward, and will be on view for a short time at his studio in Piccadilly. The length over all, from the tip of the front horn to the root of the tail, is 12ft.; the height at the shoulder is 5ft. 2in.; and the front horn measures 26½in. along the outer curve, and 21½in. round the base. Much finer horns are known. At a meeting of the Zoological Society in November, 1903, Dr. P. L. Selater exhibited one measuring 31in. in a straight line from base to tip, which had been obtained by Captain Claude Hawker from the Belgian officers at Lado, and was undoubtedly taken from an animal shot in that district. These dimensions are greatly exceeded by the horns of the typical white rhinoceros which formerly lived south of the Zambesi, and is now practically extinct. Gordon Cumming obtained one 62½in. in length along the front curve, and there is another in the British Museum measuring only about six inches less. Though the actual discovery of this northern race of the white rhinoceros took place at the end of the last century, when Major Gibbons shot a white rhinoceros near Lado, the race was not named and described until the early part of this year. Even before Major Gibbons obtained the skull (now in the Pittsburg Museum), which was exhibited before the Royal Geographical and Zoological Societies in 1900, Mr. Rowland Ward had received horns of the white rhinoceros from the Sudan through the ordinary trade channels.

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