

been wading about trying to catch shrimps, when he saw a peculiar-looking fish with a nose which it could lengthen at pleasure, and able to swim backwards faster than forwards. He called us to look at it, and at last he and Harry made up their minds to catch it; so Harry took off his boots and stockings, and waded in, rather in fear of having his toes bitten by the crabs which swarmed in the weir. The difficulty was how to catch the creature; the bottle was too narrow-necked for the fish to swim into, and catching it with their hands seemed impossible, from the quickness of its movements, so at last they opened Harry's umbrella, and put it under the water, and then drove the fish into it with George's hat. Once in the umbrella it was quickly lifted out of the water, and then caught and transferred to the bottle, when we found that its long nose was really made up of about ten horns, and its head seemed to be put on something like the toy donkey's, with an opening all round between the head and body. When we got it home and put it into a basin, we were able to see it better, and we found that it was a squid, a creature akin to the cuttle-fish, moving in the same way, by drawing water into its gills and squirting it out again. It changed colour, too; the spots with which it was covered becoming sometimes dark red, and then suddenly fading away again so as to leave the creature a sort of dull greenish white. Its eyes were beautiful, with a sort of bright golden-green patch on the upper part. Unfortunately, it did not live long; it swam round and round the basin backwards for an hour or two, and then died.

About a week before we left Lynmouth, when the tubs needed cleaning out again, we thought it would be better to put the survivors back on the shore to enjoy the rest of their life. Accordingly the anemones were taken down one morning, and put in some suitable pools, and the crabs were carried off in the afternoon, and let loose at the edge of a large pool, where they quickly made themselves comfortable, each under a separate stone.

So ended our aquarium, for we did not care to get fresh animals, as our visit was drawing to a close. The amusement it afforded us was very great, and I strongly recommend any of my readers, the next time they go to the sea-side, to do as we did. Crabs are as easy to keep as they are amusing. Give them some stones with sea-weed growing on them, to hide under, fresh sea-water every day, with a little raw meat now and then, and they will do well. We used to get a boy to bring us up a bucketful of water every evening, give our creatures a low tide for a couple of hours or so by emptying out about half the water through a siphon made of a bit of india-rubber tubing, and then pour in the fresh water. Anemones, too, are easy to keep, but they are rather stupid. We had four different sorts at Lynmouth, but, oddly enough, three out of the four were only found in particular parts of the beach. The first, the common red 'beadlet,' was found everywhere. One like it in shape, but spotted with yellow, and without the blue spots at the root of the tentacles, was only found on the east side of the river, about half a mile away; the green opelet was found further on still, while the brown opelet was only on the west side of

the river. The daisy anemone we only found at Wooda Bay, some six miles off, but there the pools were lined with it.

If this account of a temporary aquarium leads any one to wish for a closer acquaintance with sea-creatures, I am sure the study will amply repay them.

L. D.

### THE WOOLLY RHINOCEROS.



At the time when the gigantic Mammoth was lord of the forest of the North, another huge animal, the Woolly Rhinoceros, was an inhabitant of Europe and Asia. These quadrupeds, unlike their kindred of the present day, were fitted to live in a cold climate; the rhinoceros, like the mammoth, being covered with thick hair. This kind of rhinoceros no longer exists, and it is called the *Rhinoceros tichorinus*, because it has a bony partition between its nostrils, a peculiarity which no living species of the animal possesses. It had two horns, and probably, like the mammoth, lived down to a comparatively late period, for its bones are found together with the flint implements of the primitive human beings, and its entire carcass has been discovered in the frozen ground. In 1771 the celebrated traveller and naturalist, Pallas, saw the complete body of a rhinoceros, which was discovered by some Yakouts in the frozen gravel of the banks of a river in Siberia. It had all the flesh on, the skin was covered with thick hair, and even the pupil of the eye was perfect, though it must have lain in the ice many centuries. This alone would imply that it lived in a cold climate; but besides this, its bones are found mingled with those of Arctic animals. There are two-horned rhinoceri in Africa and Sumatra at the present day, but their skins are without hair, and they are of much smaller size than the fossil rhinoceros.

In the grotto of Aurignac, in France, bones of the rhinoceros were found outside a sepulchral chamber which contained human skeletons. But the animal became extinct so long before the dawn of history that no tradition of it has been preserved. In the middle ages, when the huge thigh and leg bones of the mammoth were found in digging, they were supposed to have belonged to giants; and the skull of the rhinoceros was believed to be that of a dragon, its hooked nose like that of a bird, and the horn above it, giving it a monstrous appearance; for men never thought of elephants and rhinoceri being natives of Europe. At Klagenfurth, in the Austrian empire, there is a fountain sculptured with the figure of a dragon, which was said to have ravaged Carinthia in former times, and to have been slain by a valiant knight, who lost his life in the exploit. As a proof of the truth of the story, the head of the supposed dragon was preserved in the Hôtel de Ville; it can be seen at the present day, and turns out to be nothing but the skull of a rhinoceros.

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