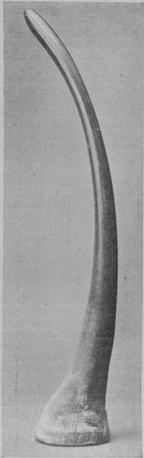


REMARKABLE RHINOCEROS HORN.

SIR,—The accompanying photograph represents an African rhinoceros horn (belonging to the Hon. Walter Rothschild), which seems to have the characters of both *Rhinoceros simus* and *Rhinoceros bicornis*. Three inches from its base the horn has almost a flat front surface like *simus*, but within 2ft. of the tip is circular like *bicornis*; length in front curve, 43½ in.; circumference at base, 22 in.; weight, 10 lb. This specimen was obtained by the late Mr Doggett on his last trip during the Uganda Boundary Commission.



[Copyright, Rowland Ward.]

HORN OF RHINOCEROS.

It would be interesting to learn if both species, viz., *Rhinoceros simus* and *R. bicornis*, occur in or near the Lado Enclave, for if this is the case it may possibly be a hybrid. ROWLAND WARD

[We have referred the question to Mr Lydekker, who writes as follows: "I have had an opportunity of examining the rhinoceros horn referred to in the above note. It is certainly a remarkable specimen, combining as it does characters usually considered as respectively distinctive of *simus* and *bicornis*. In the form of the roughened base, which presents a sub-circular section, it approximates, for instance, to the *bicornis* type, while above this it presents the flattened front surface characteristic of the white rhinoceros. On the other hand, as the summit is approached it once more reverts to the *bicornis* type, expanding laterally in the manner seen in certain front horns of the black species. In its curvature it also shows a distinct approximation to the front horn of the *bicornis holmuwoodi* type, and to the one in the Paris Museum which Dr Trouessart has represented in Plate xxix. of the Zoological Society's *Proceedings* for 1909 surmounting the snout of a female of the Lado race (*simus cottoni*) of the white species. Horns of the *holmuwoodi* type, which Dr Trouessart assigned to *simus cottoni*, are, as I have previously shown in the *Field*, referable to the black species. As to the Paris specimen assigned by the same naturalist to the female of the Lado white rhinoceros, I can say nothing definite as I do not know its history; but no horn of anything like its length is definitely known in this country as the product of *simus cottoni*. Indeed, the longest horn of that race recorded in Mr Ward's *Records of Big Game* measures only 41 in. or considerably shorter than the specimen forming the subject of the present note. Whether the latter belongs to a male or a female is difficult to decide, although if it pertain to the white species it is almost certainly the front horn of a female. With regard to the hybrid theory, I am loth to believe that two species so different from one another as the white and the black rhinoceros would interbreed under normal circumstances in a state of nature. So far, however, as I can glean there appears to be no evidence that the black species is a native of the Lado Enclave, no horns being recorded in Mr Ward's book from that district, while apparently no mention of the occurrence of the species in Lado is made by Major Powell-Cotton in his volume *Unknown Africa*. Mr Roosevelt, again, when writing in his *African Game Trails* (pp. 414-5) of the white or square-mouthed rhinoceros in Lado contrasts it with the East African black species, as if there were none of the latter in the district. How near the range of the black rhinoceros comes to Lado I am unaware, but if it be sufficiently close to permit of a stray individual occasionally wandering into the country we should have just the condition to induce the interbreeding of the two species, as in the case of the so-called *Ovis brookei*, which is believed to be a hybrid due to a Tibetan argali having strayed into the domain of the urial. If on the other hand, the doubtful horn is not that of a hybrid—and I refrain from expressing any opinion on this point—it can only pertain to a female of the white rhinoceros, on the assumption that black rhinos are unknown in Lado. I am informed, however, by Mr Ward that such female horns of the northern race of the white rhinoceros that have hitherto come under his notice are small, but otherwise of the normal *simus* type. At present, therefore, it seems impossible to come to any satisfactory conclusion with regard to Mr Rothschild's specimen."—Ed.]

THE STRENGTH OF AN ELEPHANT.

SIR,—I had lately to go to the Chiromo Marsh in Nyasaland in search of certain specimens of game which I required. The marsh has lately been opened to sportsmen, having previously

measure
what a

SIR,—
of Jan. 1
domestic
or two c
skull of
which
describes
artificial
to him.

Very
pair of



HA

SK

what ma
details of
the anim
were exh
in the m
clearly sh
horns of
character

The b
question
horns of

Mr I
has in t
our nativ
of the fox
with asto
on its fos
of observ
exhibitio
he shows
India. W
fleeing w
their stra
the Masa
Indian ju
forest, an
down the
which h
sporting
photogra
with par
springing
along its
we are en
helped h
photogra
than a s
personal
pursuit o

Oil f
No. 82 (p
reports c
and Tec
by the
reports