

trines of definite proportion, and to the atomic theory. *Hire Kass* a sulphate of iron, in extensive use, occurs massive, of a greenish hue and acid taste. Its specific gravity is 1.7, and affords on analysis 20 per cent. oxyd of iron, 35 of water, and 45 of sulphuric acid. The appellation *Soorma* is given indiscriminately to the sulphurets of lead and antimony, but they are easily distinguished by their christallization. Both sulphurets appear to be free from the admixture of other metals. The antimonial ore afforded 73 per cent. of antimony and 27 of sulphur. The lead ore afforded 50 per cent. of lead, the remainder being sulphur and carbonate of lime.

5. *An account of a Meteoric stone from Bitoura* by Mr. Cracroft, is interesting from the description of the Meteoric appearances—which preceded its fall. The specimen, transmitted to the society, is one of many, which fell in the neighbourhood of Shahpoore, 70 miles N. W. of Allahabad, and were scattered over several miles of country. The meteor was seen about the same time in its passage through the air, at Hazeerabag and Allahabad, holding a north westerly course. It was also seen distinctly from Benares and Ghazeepore, moving quickly and falling to the west. The particles of this stone, when separated by a magnet, gave on analysis iron 75, nicket 5, and silex with oxide of chrome 20 per cent.

After the examination of the foregoing communications the following contributions were read.

*Remarks on the procreation of the Rhinoceros* by B. H. Hodgson, Esq. —The gestation of the Elephant and Rhinoceros has been long a subject of interesting enquiry to naturalists; but notwithstanding the ready access to these animals in this country, nothing beyond a probable conjecture respecting it, appears to have been formed, until Mr. Hodgson made the observations,

which are the subject of the present communication. The gestation of the Rhinoceros was supposed by Buffon, not to exceed nine months, and its corresponding life not to pass that of man, and this remark has been repeated by Desmarests, one of the latest writers on the subject. Mr. Hodgson however has set the former part of this question at rest, by his observations on the habits of a male and female Rhinoceros, kept in the Managerie of the Raja of Nipal. Mr. H. states “that about 18 months prior to May last a male and female Rhinoceros voluntarily associated, and that the result after an interval from 17 to 18 months, was a fine male cub.”

Mr. H. further observes, that the correctness of this period was doubted by the late lamented M. Duvaucel, on the grounds of its being opposed to the general symmetry of those laws, which regulate the brute creation; and who in reference to this point objected the asserted gestation of the Elephant at eleven months. This objection led Mr. Hodgson to collect more evidence on both these questions; but he found no reason to doubt the accuracy of his first statement respecting the Rhinoceros, and learned that the time usually given to the gestation of the Elephant by the natives, varied from 22 to 24 months, which agrees with the period mentioned by Buffon, Bhumenbach, Shaw, Desmarests, and other naturalists who have mentioned the subject. Mr. Hodgson first saw the Rhinoceros when 3 days old, and found that it was at this time chiefly distinguished in exterior character from its mother, by a bright pink suffusion, which pervaded its hide, and by the absence of the nasal horn. Mr. Hodgson saw the animal, a second time, when a month old, and found the pink tinge gradually subsiding into an uniform dark colour, whilst the incipient horn was beginning to raise the frontal skin

The following were its dimensions at the two periods.

|                               | one                   | 3 Days, | Month, |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------|
| Length of Body, . . .         | 3 ft. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 3       | 10     |
| Circumference of do. 4 . .    | $\frac{1}{2}$         | 4       | 5      |
| Height of Shoulder, . . . . . | 2                     | 2       | 5      |
| Length of head, . . . . .     | 0 $\frac{1}{2}$       | 1       | 2      |
| Circumference of do. 2 . .    | 2                     | 2       | 6      |

*Extracts from the Journal* of a distinguished traveller, now performing an extensive tour through most parts of the continent of India—gave to the Committee some notices of different animals inhabiting the vicinities of the Himala. The Hare, much larger than that of Hindustan, and not much inferior in size to that of Europe. The Yak Musk Deer, and Shawl Goat inhabit the coldest regions of the snowy mountains. Whilst the Yak droops as soon as it leaves the neighbourhood of the ice, and the Shawl Goat deteriorates in its wool, when removed to more temperate climates, the animals of the south seem to do well amongst the snow. English Dogs, impaired by the climate of the plains, improve in size, strength and sagacity among the Bhoteahs; and what is very remarkable in a winter or two, they acquire the same fine short wool, mixed up with their own hair, which distinguishes some of the indigenous animals of the country; and the same is found to be in a great measure the case with Horses. The small well formed Shaggy Ponies brought down by the Bhoteahs for sale, are said to resemble those of Siberia, seen by our traveller in Russia. The Tyger is found quite up to the Glaciers, of size and ferocity undiminished, and the Lyon and the Hyæna are common in the neighbourhood. The writer incidentally observes, how much the Hyæna has been wronged by the supposition of his untameableness, and mentions the instance of one kept by a Gentleman for several years, which followed his

master like a dog, and fawned upon those, with whom he was acquainted. It is well observed, that the occurrence of these natural inhabitants of torrid climates in the very regions of the Glaciers, is a fact of the highest interest, in relation to the native country of their congeners, whose remains are found in different parts of Europe. This subject is indeed obviously one, which might be pursued with the prospect of valuable results to the history of the earth, and as affecting the consequences, drawn from the discoveries and observations of Cuvier and Buckland. Bears are common throughout the province of Kamaon, and prefer roots, berries and honey for their food, but through a kind of capricious cruelty, often worry and destroy a passenger. Our author was told, that they particularly attack women, and ingeniously suggests, that this may be attributable to another passion than cruelty, and be dependant on their organization, which in many respects approximates that of the Monkey. This species of Bear is probably the *Ursus Thibetanus* of Cuvier. Small Marmots abound in the neighbourhood of the snow but differ from the Leming, or Lapland species in habit, as no instance is known of their assembling in numbers, and making annual incursions into the cultivated districts. The animal, however, which most powerfully arrested our authors notice was the wild Dog,\* resembling the Fox in form and fur, but much stronger and fiercer. The wild Dogs hunt in packs, give tongue and possess a fine scent. They make havoc amongst the game of the hills, but they repay the mischief, by destroying many wild beasts, and even the Tyger. This last assertion first published in Captain Williamson's Field Sports in India, has been much discredited, but is generally believed in Kamaon,

\* See Note, at the end of Proceedings.