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NEW ILLUSTRATED NATURAL HISTORY OF THE WORLD

BY

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AUTHOR OF "THE HANDY NATURAL HISTORY," ETC. ETC.

WITH 24 COLOURED PLATES (73 FIGURES)
AND NEARLY 300 PHOTOGRAPHS DIRECT FROM NATURE
CHIEFLY BY W. S. BERRIDGE, F.Z.S.



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ORDER : CARNIVORA (Flesh-eaters)

SUB-ORDER : FISSIPEDIA (Land Carnivores)

<i>Family</i> Felidæ	Cat Tribe : Lion—Tiger—Leopard Ounce—Jaguar—Puma—Ocelot— Serval—Fishing Cat—Wild Cat— Domestic Cat—Lynxes—Cheetah
„ Viverridæ	Civets—Genet—Cynogale—Mongoose
„ Protelidæ	Aard Wolf
„ Hyænidæ	Hyænas
„ Canidæ	Dog Tribe : Wolves—Jackals—Wild Dogs —Domestic Dog—Foxes—Fennec
„ Mustelidæ	Weasel Tribe : True Weasels (Marten, Sable, Polecat, Weasel, etc.)—Wolverene —Skunks—Zorille—Badgers—Otters
„ Procyonidæ	Raccoon—Coaitis—Kinkajou
„ Ursidæ	Bears

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SUB-ORDER : PINNIPEDIA (Marine Carnivores)

<i>Family</i> Phocidæ	Earless, or True, Seals—Sea Elephant
„ Otariidæ	Eared Seals—Sea Lion—Sea Bear
„ Trichechidæ	Walrus

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ORDER : RODENTIA (Gnawing Animals)

SUB-ORDER : SIMPLICIDENTATA

<i>Family</i> Sciuridæ	Typical Squirrels—Flying Squirrels —Ground Squirrels—Marmots
„ Castoridæ	Beaver
„ Dipodidæ	Jerboa
„ Pedetidæ	Cape Jumping Hare
„ Muridæ	Mice—Rats—Voles—Musquash— Hamster—Lemming
„ Myoxidæ	Dormice
„ Hystricidæ	Porcupines
„ Dasyproctidæ	Agouti
„ Caviidæ	Guinea Pig—Capybara
„ Chinchillidæ	Chinchilla—Viscacha

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SUB-ORDER : DUPLICIDENTATA

<i>Family</i> Leporidæ	Hares—Rabbits
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ORDER : UNGULATA (Hoofed Animals)

SUB-ORDER : HYRACOIDEA

<i>Family</i> Hyracidæ	Hyraces
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SUB-ORDER : PROBOSCIDEA

<i>Family</i> Elephantidæ	Elephants
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SUB-ORDER : PERISSODACTYLA (Odd-toed Ungulates)

<i>Family</i> Tapiridæ	Tapirs
„ Rhinocerotidæ	Rhinoceroses
„ Equidæ	Horse—Ass—Zebra—Quagga

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PLATE VIII

African Rhinoceros
Indian Elephant

The Malayan Tapir (*T. indicus*), standing rather more than four feet high, is a larger animal than its American cousin, but its habits are very similar. Its distinguishing mark is the greyish-white colour of the loins and hind-quarters, which gives the animal an odd appearance, as if a white horsecloth had been spread over it.

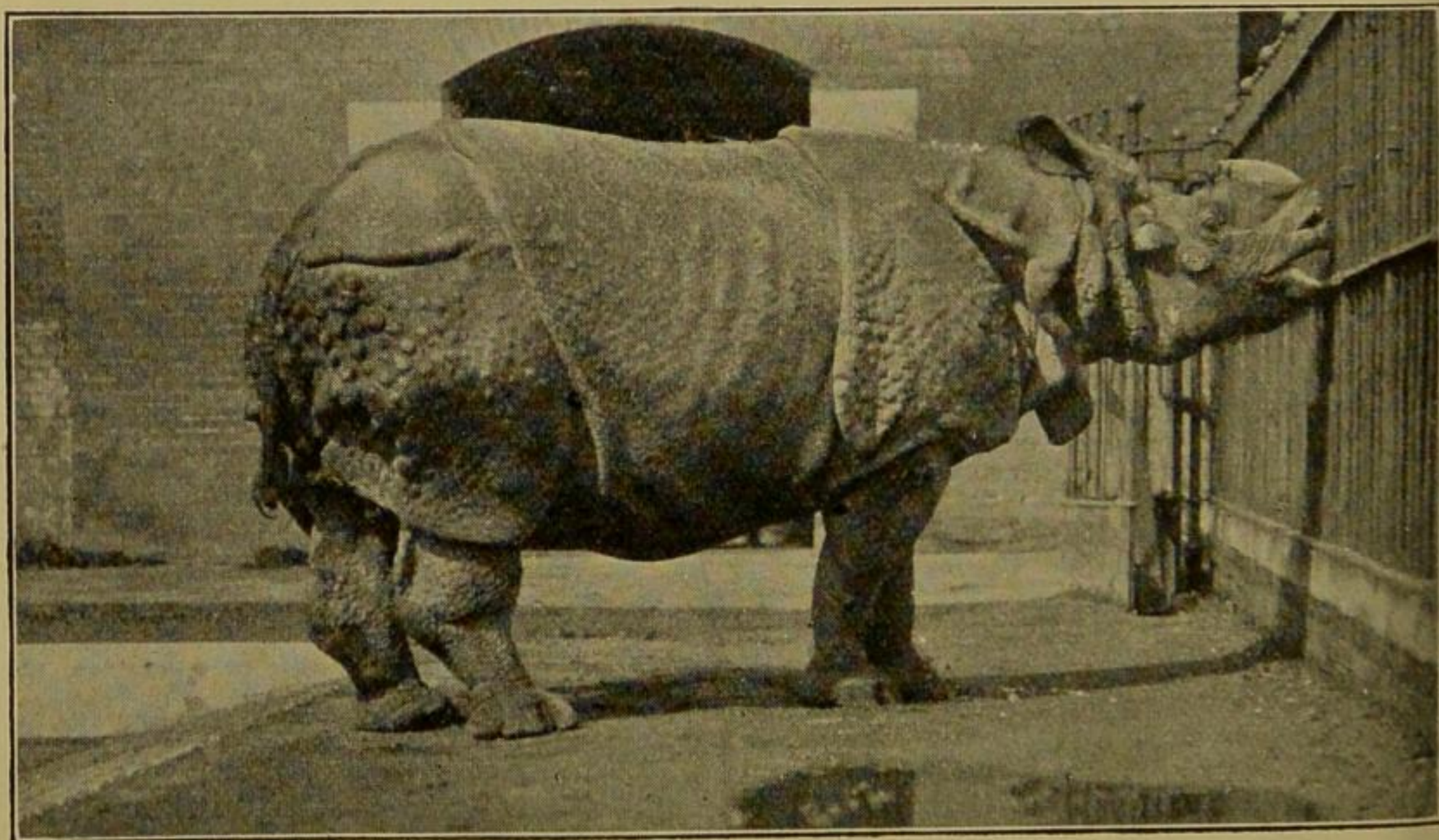
FAMILY : RHINOCEROTIDÆ

THE RHINOCEROSES

The word 'Rhinoceros' signifies 'horned-nose,' and each of the various species possesses at least one horn, while the snouts of some are furnished with two. The horns are not connected with the skull, being attached merely by the skin, and they may thus be separated from the head by means of a sharp knife; they are hard, capable of a high polish, and are a fine material for drinking-cups, etc. The upper lip is considerably prolonged, and in most of the species is prehensile, and by means of it the animal can pick up the smallest objects from the ground. There are no canine teeth, but in the lower jaw not infrequently is a pair of tusks, large, pointed, and almost horizontal. The skin is rough and warty, and of remarkable thickness and strength, and the natives manufacture it into very effective shields. The figure of the Rhinoceros suggests the last word in clumsiness, but it is far swifter than some slimly built animals.

THE INDIAN RHINOCEROS (*Rhinoceros unicornis*)

The Indian Rhinoceros rarely exceeds five feet in height, and is remarkable for the heavy folds into which the gnarled, blackish



RHINOCEROS

grey hide is gathered, forming large flaps that can easily be lifted up by the hand. It suffers greatly from parasitic insects that creep behind the folds, and it is to get rid of these pests that the animal is so fond of wallowing in mud and water. The skin of the underparts is comparatively soft, and rather easily pierced by a spear. Its single horn, though somewhat short, is wide and heavy, and by means of the weapon the animal can repel the attack of a bull elephant. The Rhinoceros frequents swampy jungles, where the grass grows to a height of twenty feet or more. Its organs of scent and hearing are very acute, and it is necessary for hunters to exhibit the greatest care, lest in a fit of fear or fury the ponderous creature charges out of cover before a shot can be taken at it. Mounted elephants are often used to beat the Rhinoceros out of its retreat, and sometimes one of the huge creatures and its rider are brought to the ground in a collision with a stampeding animal.

The Sumatran Rhinoceros (*R. sumatrensis*), though a smaller animal, is sometimes a ton in weight. It possesses two horns, which the Chinese grind into powder for use as a sovereign remedy in the treatment of various diseases.

THE BLACK RHINOCEROS (*Rhinoceros bicornis*)

Of several African species the Black Rhinoceros, or Borele, though not the largest, is one of the fiercest and most dangerous. Its habitat is East and South Africa to about the borders of Cape Colony. It is double horned, the foremost one, bent slightly backwards, being from twenty to thirty inches long, while the back horn is conical, and only half the length. The skin is not folded, but, nevertheless, is hard and tough. The sight of the Rhinoceros is never good, and in this instance is further impeded by the larger horns; but there is nothing lacking in its hearing and scent, and it is second to none in wariness.

When wounded, the Black Rhinoceros is a truly terrible opponent. Although so clumsy in shape and aspect, it can dart with lightning speed, and test the powers of a good horse to escape from its charge. On one occasion an angry beast dashed upon a waggon, and struck his horn into the bottom plank with such force as to send the vehicle forward several paces, although it was sticking in deep sand. He next directed his attack upon the fire, knocking the burning wood in every direction. He continued his wild career, for a spear, flung by a native, only bent its iron point against the strong hide.

The Keitloa (*R. keitloa*) is a bigger and even more ill-tempered animal, with two horns of nearly the same length. Andersson had a particularly strenuous encounter with a wounded animal. Charging suddenly upon him, she knocked him down, fortunately missing her stroke with her horns, but passing fairly over him, leaving him to struggle out from between her hind legs. She turned and made a second charge, cutting his leg from the knee to the hip with her

horn, and again knocking him over with a blow from her fore-feet. She might easily have killed him, but, instead, she plunged into a thicket, and permitted her victim to escape. Later in the day the same beast attacked Andersson's half-caste boy attendant, and would probably have killed him had not the hunter come to the rescue with his gun. After receiving several bullets the Rhinoceros fell to the ground, and the hunter walked up to her to put the muzzle of the rifle to her ear. Before he could pull the trigger she again leaped to her feet; he hastily fired and rushed away, pursued by the infuriated animal, which, however, fell dead just as he threw himself into a bush for safety.

Burchell's Rhinoceros (*R. simus*), or Mochuco, is the largest of the family, standing six or seven feet high at the shoulder, and measuring sixteen or seventeen feet in length. It is also called the White Rhinoceros, being a slightly paler brown than the foregoing species. Its front horn grows to a great length; one in the South Kensington Museum is fifty-six inches long, and one hunter possesses a trophy that exceeds it by six inches. Though it is a less offensive animal than the Borele or Keitloa, the White Rhinoceros is not to be despised as an opponent. Upon one occasion a wounded beast did not charge, but walked towards its mounted opponent, whose horse at that moment became unmanageable. Without preliminary warning, the Rhinoceros bent its head, and with a thrust upwards struck its front horn into the ribs of the horse, penetrating the saddle, and injuring the rider's leg on the other side. The horse turned a complete somersault in the air, and came down upon its back. Fortunately the angry brute was satisfied with its exploit, and did not stay to vent its anger on the disabled hunter, but left the scene of action at a canter.

The natives of Africa enjoy Rhinoceros meat, but Europeans do not set much value upon it. One hunter describes it as being dark-coloured, coarse, and peculiarly flavoured—a little more beef than fowl, and a little more fish than beef. The thick, hard skin is employed by the colonists in the manufacture of whips, or sjamboks.

FAMILY: EQUIDÆ

THE HORSE (*Equus caballus*)

The domesticated Horse is too familiar to call for elaborate description. The Arabian Horse and the Race Horse, models of elegance and beauty, and noted for their speed, are in marked contrast to the heavy Dray Horse of the Flanders breed, or the sturdy little Shetland pony, that is sometimes less than three feet in height. A Horse can carry with comfort not more than 120 lbs. on its back, but its strength in haulage is remarkable. One Dray Horse was put to a remarkable test. Upon rails it dragged a weight of 55 tons a distance of more than twenty miles in six hours. In

lodged in the South Kensington Museum, where several stuffed specimens may now be seen. No white man appears to have yet set eyes upon the Okapi, and the advent of a live animal would excite positive enthusiasm.

The Okapi is an extraordinary-looking beast. Its head is giraffe-like in shape, with two very short curved horns just above the eyes, and its body reminds one very much of the hartebeest. The legs are clean and slender, the hoofs are neat, and there appears to be little doubt that the creature is capable of considerable speed. Its colour is mainly a purplish brown, with transverse stripes on the hind-quarters, thighs and fore-legs.

It may not be out of place to consider for a moment the most dangerous sport in the world, namely, capturing big game alive. As an occupation it is a mere gamble with death, and the monetary results are always doubtful, and often microscopically small compared to the delirium of danger in which the hunter is always engaged. Captain Fritz Duquesne tells us that the prices of wild animals naturally fluctuate with the demand. Five rhinoceroses for sale at any time in the world would glut the market, for one cannot sell a rhinoceros any day. The maintenance of wild animals is costly, and they soon eat their value in food; so that every day they are on the hunter or dealer's hands he is losing money.

Capturing the animals, difficult as it is, is only the commencement of a tedious business. They have to be transported to the coast, which adds greatly to their cost. Delivered at Nairobi or Port Florence, which are inland and practically on the African big-game hunting-field, a giraffe will bring from £50 to £100 sterling, and a baby hippopotamus nearly as much; elands, and most of the larger antelopes, from £25 to £40; monkeys and baboons from 5s. to 25s.; elephants from £75 to £175, and lions and leopards from £20 to £35, according to their size and condition. The gorilla and the white rhinoceros can be sold at auction by telegraph, and their value might run from £1000 to £6000. These prices are doubled by the time the animals reach the coast; and then there is the cost of transport from Africa to London, Antwerp, or Hamburg, with the cost of food and care added. It is quite certain that the hunter who succeeds in capturing a live Okapi will not lack for bidders, and the price will certainly not be less than that offered for a gorilla.