

BARTLETT'S LIFE AMONG
WILD BEASTS
IN THE 'ZOO'

BEING A CONTINUATION OF
WILD ANIMALS IN CAPTIVITY

THE HABITS, FOOD, MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENT
OF THE BEASTS AND BIRDS AT THE 'ZOO'

WITH

Reminiscences and Anecdotes

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CHAPTER VII.

THE LARGER QUADRUPEDS.

SUMATRAN RHINOCEROS.

(*RHINOCEROS SUMATRENSIS.*)

THE steamship '*Orchis*' arrived at the Victoria Docks from Singapore on December 7, 1872, having on board an adult female Sumatran Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sumatrensis*). About seven o'clock in the evening of that day the keeper was surprised to hear a feeble squeaking voice proceeding from the den containing the Rhinoceros. He was soon made aware of the cause of this small voice, for upon examining the den he found the beast had produced a young one, which was still fixed or attached by the umbilical cord, and, while looking at it, he distinctly saw the mother turn her head towards the young one and with her teeth bite or sever the connecting band. He found also that the mother, who had been always rather savage, appeared quite quiet and, as he called it, perfectly tamed; she allowed him to enter her den and milk her, and afterwards place the young one in a position that enabled it to suck. Having carefully closed the canvas all round and over the den, he left, thinking that rest and quietness would perhaps be desirable for the then tired and exhausted mother.

It appears, however, that the little Rhinoceros was not

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inclined to be shut up in the den, and was found soon afterwards walking about in the dark and rain on the deck of the ship. The cold and wet had produced the effect of almost depriving it of the use of its limbs, but it was soon restored by being rubbed all over and placed in warm blankets. On the following morning I found the mother and young one on board the ship and about to be landed. I advised having the little one removed from the den, fearing that, during the lifting and moving to the van or trolley, the mother might be thrown or tumble on to the little one and crush it. No sooner, however, was the den safely landed on the carriage, than she exhibited restlessness, and it was thought desirable that the young one should be replaced with its mother; this was done, and the keeper, Mr. Auguste Engelecke, entered the den and remained with the animals during the journey from the tidal basin of the Victoria Docks to the Commercial Road.

On arriving at the stables of Mr. Rice, in the Commercial Road, it required some time to unload the large den from the trolley and get it into a stable; and, in order to prevent accident to the young one, we again removed it from its mother and conveyed it at once into the house, taking it in blankets into the parlour, where there was a good fire. Here we had quite enough to do to keep it from running all over the room, so strong and determined it appeared to be. As soon as the mother was safely lodged in the stable the little one was carried in a blanket by two men and placed with its mother, and it immediately went to her and commenced sucking. A very remarkable circumstance connected with the mother was her unexpected quietness; for she had, previously to the birth of the young one, been inclined to attack the keeper or any one who went near her; but after the

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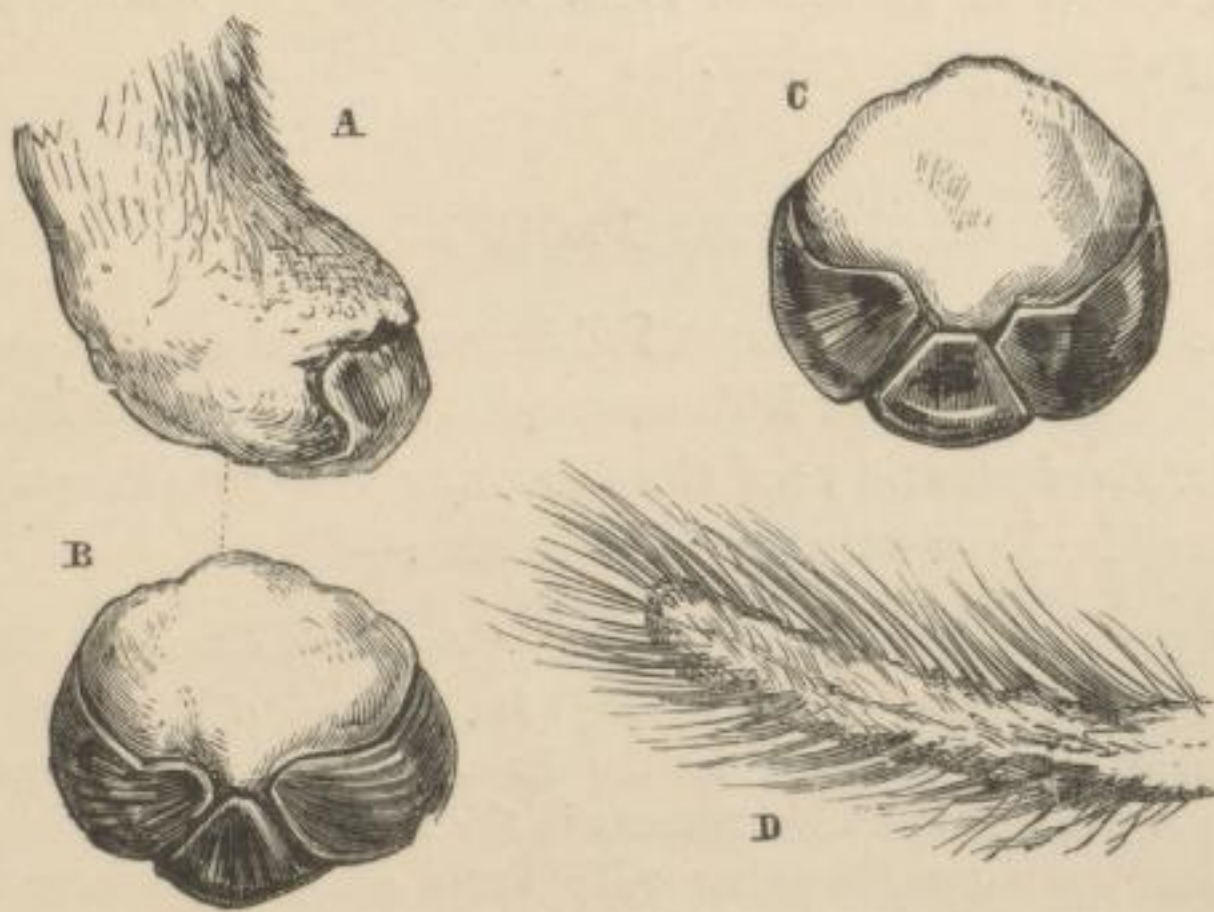
young one was born, she allowed the keeper to enter the den and milk her as quietly as would the tamest cow ; and moreover, after she was in the stable, I with others went inside with her and the young one, patting and caressing her with our hands as though she were a tame old pet that had been used to receive this marked attention from visitors. It has since occurred to me that she was probably in the sulks, because I remember the account of the Hairy-eared Rhinoceros when being removed in Calcutta. She turned sulky and laid down in the street, and it was with the greatest difficulty that she was dragged, or rather slid along, over the muddy road to the stable ; so stubborn and determined not to move was she that, although hundreds of pails of water were thrown over her, she would not rise. Was the animal now under consideration quiet by being under the influence of the sulks ? I think this must have been the case, since she allowed the men to enter the den, some to push at her nose, others to pull her ears to back her out, and all this was done without any attempt being made on her part to resent the liberties or injure her tormentors.¹ Now, according to the statement of Mr. Engelecke, this animal had been captured but little over seven months on her arrival in the docks, and he told me that her captors had witnessed the act of her copulation just before she was caught in the pitfall ; we may presume, therefore, that the period of gestation does not differ much from that of the hippopotamus.

In appearance the young Rhinoceros reminds one of

¹ My suspicion was fully confirmed ; for only a few days afterwards her savage disposition and temper caused Mr. Rice and his assistants the utmost alarm, lest she should escape from the stable or kill some of the men who attended to her ; for she broke and smashed almost everything within her reach, and they had the greatest difficulty in getting her into the den in which she was shipped to America.

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a young ass, viewing its long legs and general mode of moving its large long head and meagre-looking body. The front horn on the nose is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch high, the posterior horn is not developed; but a smooth spot indicates its position. Nearly black and covered with short crisp black hair, its ears very hairy inside as well as outside, the tail quite like a brush at the tip, it was thin and bony, looking much like a starved pig. One thing appeared to me remarkable—the condition of the hoofs;



A. Side view, and, B, sole of the right fore-foot of the young Rhinoceros. C. Sole of right hind-foot of same. These three figures show how the nails or hoofs are long and inturned immediately after birth, as described above. D. Sketch of the tail of the adult male.

they were turned under the feet, as will be seen by the drawings (Figs. A, B, C). The extreme points of the hoofs were quite soft, like the same parts of a newly-born calf. It is quite evident, from the manner of the turning-under of these horny appendages, that, as they are worn through, the proper form is produced by the pointed portion being got rid of.

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It was 3 ft. in length, 2 ft. high at the shoulder; and its weight, as near as I was able to judge by lifting it, was rather over 50 lbs.

I observed that as soon as the young one had sucked sufficiently it walked away from its mother and entered a dark corner in a box provided for it and lay down to sleep; by this I am led to think that in a wild state it would be left by the mother in the same way that many vegetable-eating animals leave their young while they roam about in search of food, returning to suckle their young at the proper time.

RHINOCEROS FROM BORNEO.

Mr. Alfred R. Wallace, F.Z.S., exhibited at a meeting of the Society some Rhinoceros-horns, sent from Borneo by Mr. Everett, and read the following letter addressed to him by Mr. Everett concerning them:—

“*Sarawak, March 12, 1874.*”

“I have forwarded to you, through Dr. Jessopp, of Norwich, two Rhinoceros-horns, obtained in the Bazaar at Sibü, the principal station of the Sarawak Government in the Rejang river.

“These specimens, together with three others, the largest of which measured perpendicularly stood $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. high, were brought probably from the country about the head-waters of the Koti; but there is reason to believe that the animal is distributed (though not abundantly) throughout the upper course of the Rejang, Kapuas, Koti, Baluñgan, and, perhaps, all the larger streams of the island. Both horns and teeth are brought to Sibü by natives, arriving from the above district for purposes of trade; and these articles being valued by Chinese and Malays for their supposed medicinal properties, at once command a ready sale, so that they disappear generally beyond hope of recovery.

“The Kayans call the animal ‘Temadu’; and the country at the head of the Rejang, *i.e.* for the last five days of its course, would seem to be well suited to be the habitat of this bulky herbivore, being described as destitute of any settled human population, and

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as affording stretches of tolerably level and grassy country which affords pasture to herds of a species of wild ox. The horns of the latter are often purchased at Sibü ; but I have never seen a skin or skull. The general close affinity between the faunas of Borneo and Sumatra suggests that a Bornean Rhinoceros would be found to be furnished with two horns ; and, in fact, natives describe it as being so.

“ It is very long since I have seen the horns of any species of Rhinoceros ; but, so far as my memory serves, the large one I send is unlike that of the *Rhinoceros sumatrensis*.”

I exhibited a similar horn, but a larger example, which I had obtained from a friend, along with some Dyak weapons, twenty years ago, and which was stated to have been received from Borneo. I remarked that these specimens left no doubt of the existence in Borneo of a Rhinoceros which was probably allied to *Rhinoceros sondaicus*, but of smaller dimensions.

THE HORSE.

HORSE-FLESH AS FOOD.

Frank Buckland having written the following, I will give it just as he penned it :—

“ Not long since an exceedingly fine young horse was sent to the Zoological Gardens as food for the lions. The owner of the horse insisted, for certain private reasons, that the animal should be destroyed, which was done accordingly (it was shot dead by my son Edward with a single bullet in the forehead), although the horse was in perfect health. The next day my friend, Mr. Bartlett, resident superintendent of the Gardens (with whom I had often talked over the subject of hippophagotomy), invited me to lunch ; two exceedingly fine hot steaks were placed on the table. ‘ Now Buckland,’ said he, ‘ one of those steaks is horse, and the other is rump-steak proper ; I shall not tell you which is which, make your lunch of

depth, and the rocky, cavernous nature of the bottom—of many parts of which we know really nothing—who can say what may have been hidden for ages, and may still remain a mystery for generations yet to come; for have we not evidence on land that there still exist some of the largest mammals, probably in thousands, of which only one solitary individual has been caught or brought to notice? I allude to the hairy-eared, two-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros lasiotis*), captured in 1868, at Chittagong (where it was found stranded in the mud), and now known as an inhabitant of the Zoological Gardens.

I could quote other instances, but I will content myself by stating that the animal to which I have just referred remains unique, and that no part or portion of any specimen was previously known to exist in any museum at home or abroad.

We have here an instance of the existence of a species of Rhinoceros—as large, or nearly so, as the Hippopotamus—found on the continent of India, of which country we, in England, are supposed to know so much—where for many years collectors and naturalists have worked, and published lists of all the animals met with, and have hitherto failed to meet with or obtain any knowledge of this great beast. May I not, therefore, presume that, in the vast and mighty ocean, animals, perhaps of nocturnal habits, and therefore never, except by some extraordinary accident, forced into sight, may exist, the forms of which resemble the extinct reptiles whose fossil remains we find in such abundance?

The form indicated and described strongly resembles some of the extinct reptilian characters, and reminds me of the models of fish-like lizards and other animals represented and constructed by Waterhouse Hawkins under the direction of Professor Owen, and exhibited in the grounds