

INTELLIGENCE IN DOGS

SIR,—As a correspondent to *COUNTRY LIFE* recently maintained that dogs are not intelligent I thought that the following incident might interest your readers.

When I was a small boy in the middle '80s our family used to leave Nottingham for the summer months to go and stay at Ingoldmells, in Lincolnshire, three miles along the road to Chapel St. Leonards from Skegness. For perhaps three years we had always taken our Irish terrier, Stella, with us, but in the year in question our father decided to leave her behind with the groom. Stella must have been miserable without us children to play with and decided to join us, for three days after we had arrived at Ingoldmells a telegram arrived to say that Stella was missing.

The next day when we children were returning to the house from the beach for lunch, what should we see

Foxhounds, which said "Hounds Gentlemen, Please" and "Thank You" signs which always made me feel rather a boumder. I note that the former sign has now been replaced by one which proclaims "Warning: Horses, Hounds and Men." During the seven years that I have passed along this stretch of road, only once have I seen either a horse, a hound or a man; and the friendly groom to whom I gave a lift to Exeter in no way justified this warning against his present-day fellows!—LUDOVIC GRANT, *Axmouth, Seaton, Devon.*

EARLY RHINOCEROS IN EUROPE

SIR,—I was much interested in the article on rhinoceros by Sir William Gowers which appeared in your issue of February 1. I enclose a photograph of a coin or medal recently found in Germany by the brother of Mr. Peter Ryhiner, the Swiss collector-naturalist, who sent it to Mr. P. D. Tracey in Assam, who in turn lent it to me to photograph.

Apparently several of these medals were found and they seem to have been struck at Nuremberg. The date on the obverse side is 1748. On the reverse side is the following, translated from the German: "This Rhinoceros has been brought to Europe in the year 1741 by Captain David Moyt from the Sea of Bengal, and in the year 1747 when it was eight and a half years old it was 12 shoes long, 12 shoes girt, and 5.7 shoes high. It feeds daily on 60 pounds of hay, 20 pounds of bread and drinks 14 buckets of water."

There can be little doubt that this rhinoceros is the fourth one mentioned by Sir William Gowers, the one which was painted by J. D. Meyer and later provided the illustration in Buffon's *Natural History*.—E. P. GEE, *Doyang T. E., Oating P. O., Assam, India.*

JAMES WYATT AT



THE STABLES AT WALLINGTON, CAMBO, NORTHUMBERLAND

See letter: James Wyatt at Blagdon

the Rococo plasterwork on the staircase wall may have been executed by the Italian stuccoists imported by Sir Walter Blackett to decorate Wallington. If this be so, it may be more than a coincidence that Wyatt's beautiful stables at Blagdon seem to echo the earlier coach-house at Wallington, which there forms the central block of, and entrance to, the stables.

In his articles on Wallington in *COUNTRY LIFE* in June, 1918, the late Sir George Otto Trevelyan wrote that the cupola surmounting the coach-house was designed by the first Duke of Northumberland.—R. O. HANCOCK, 73, *Egerton Gardens, S.W.3.*

[We reproduce a photograph of the stables at Wallington.—ED.]

PREHISTORIC REMAINS IN DERBYSHIRE

SIR,—Your interesting correspondence on prehistoric stone circles and barrows prompts me to send you this picture of Arbor Low, Derbyshire, known as the Stonehenge of the Midlands and considered one of the finest stone circles in England. The purpose of the circle is obscure and opinions are divided as to whether the

three more stones. The whole stands on a tableland formed by the ditch, which has two entrances.

Incidentally, I believe this to be the only photograph showing the complete circle, for I found it impossible to include it all on one negative. This print is a combination of three negatives, two showing half the circle and the third the sky. Although this may not satisfy the purists, it certainly shows the subject as it really is.—FRANK RODGERS, *Derby.*

LOCAL NAMES FOR NEWTS

SIR,—The recent correspondence on the names for newts reminds me that a year or two ago I was asked to remove what sounded like "an asgil" from the stone kitchen floor of a Herefordshire house. This strange monster, then unknown to me, turned out to be a newt. When I referred to it by that name the people of the house were quite surprised to learn that newts and asgils were one and the same.

I subsequently learned that at least one authority on Herefordshire dialect spells the word askil, which is closer to another name still generally



MEDAL, STRUCK AT NUREMBERG IN 1748, DEPICTING A RHINOCEROS

See letter: Early Rhinoceros in Europe

but Stella coming bounding along the road with such joy that she jumped up at me and knocked me flat in the middle of the road. But who had brought her and how had she come?

In those days the Great Northern