



T H E

Gentleman's Magazine,

For M A Y 1747.



DESCRIPTION of the RHINOCEROS, represented at Fig. VII. on the Plate in April Magazine. (210)



HIS creature was first shewn in London in June 1739, at 2s. and 6d. for each spectator, being esteem'd a very great curiosity, there not having been a Rhinoceros

in England since 1685. He was fed here with rice, hay and sugar: Of the first he eat 7 pounds to about 3 pounds of the sugar; they were mixed together, and he eat this quantity every day, divided into three meals, and about a truss of hay in a week, besides greens of different kinds, of which he seemed fonder than of his dry victuals; and drank large quantities of water.

He bore to be handled in any part of his body; but was outrageous when struck or hungry, yet pacified in either case only by giving him victuals. In his outrage he jumps about, and springs to an incredible height, driving his head against the walls of the place with great fury and quickness, notwithstanding his lumpish aspect.

As to his size, he did not exceed a young heifer in height; but was very broad and thick.

The horn stands on the nose of the animal, as upon a hill; but as he is only two years old, does not rise from its rough basis above an inch high, is black and smooth at the top, like those of the

ox-kind, but rugged downwards; the determination of its growth is backwards, instead of strait up, as is shewn by the dotted lines *a*.

His under jaw is wider than his upper, slanting outward to the lower edge, and backward to the neck; the edges turn outward.

That part that reaches from the fore part of the horn towards the upper lip, may be called the nose, being very bulky, and having a kind of circular sweep downwards towards the nostrils: On all this part he has a great number of *Rugæ* running cross the front of it, and advancing on each side towards his eyes.

The nostrils are situated very low, in the same direction with the *vicus oris*, and not above an inch from it. If we look at him in a fore view, the whole nose, from the top of the horn to the bottom of his lower lip, seems shaped like a bell.

His under lip is like that of an ox, but the upper more like that of a horse; using it, as that creature does, to gather the hay from the rack, or grafs from the ground; with this difference, that the *Rhinoceros* has a power of stretching it out about six inches, to a point, and doubling it round a stick, or one's finger, holding it fast; so that, as to that action, it is not unlike the *proboscis* of an elephant.

As to the tongue of the *Rhinoceros*, although it is confidently reported by authors, that it is so rough as to be capable of rubbing a man's flesh from his bones; yet that of our present animal is

is soft, and as smooth as that of a calf; Whether it may grow more rough, as the beast grows older, cannot be determined.

His eyes are dull and sleepy, much like those of a hog in shape, and situated nearer the nose than that of any other quadruped; he very seldom opens them intirely.

His ears are broad and thin towards the tops, much like those of a hog; but have each a narrow round root with some *rugæ* about it; and rise, as it were, out of a sinus surrounded with a *plica*.

His neck is very short, being that part which lies between the back edge of the jaw and the *plica* of the shoulder; on this part are two distinct folds, which go quite round it, only the fore one is broken underneath, and has a hollow flap hanging from it, so deep that it would contain a man's fist shut, the concave side being forward. From the middle of the hinder one of these folds, or *plicæ*, arises another, which, passing backwards along the neck, is lost before it reaches that which surrounds the fore part of the body.

His shoulders are very thick and heavy, and have each another fold downward, that crosses the fore leg; and, almost meeting that of the fore part of the body, just mentioned, they both double under the belly close behind the fore leg.

His body, in general, is very thick, and juts out at the sides, like that of a cow with calf. He has a hollow in his back, which is mostly forward; but, backwards the ridge rises much higher than that of the withers; and, forming the *plica* upon the loins, falls down suddenly to the tail, making an uneven line. His belly hangs low, being not far from the ground, as it sinks much in the middle.

From the foresaid highest point in his back, the *plica* of the loins runs down on each side between the last ribs and the hip, and is lost before it comes to the belly; but, above the place of its being lost, another rises and runs backward round the hind legs, a little above the joint, which turns up behind till it meets another transverse one, that runs from the side of the tail forward, and is lost before it reaches within two inches of that of the loins.

His legs are thick and strong; those before, when he stands firm, bend back at the knee, a great way from a straight

line, being very round, and somewhat taper downwards. The hinder legs are also very strong, bending backwards at the joint to a blunt angle, under which the limb grows smaller, and then becomes gradually thicker, as it approaches the foot; so also does that part of the fore leg. About the joint of each of his legs, there is a remarkable *plica* when he bends them in lying down, which disappears when he stands.

In some quadrupeds, the fetlock bends or yields to the weight of the animal; but in this there is no appearance of any such bending, and he seems to stand on stumps, especially if he be viewed behind. He has three hoofs on each foot forwards; but the backpart is a great mass of flesh, rough like the rest of his skin, and bears upon the sole or bottom of his foot.

This part is plump and callous in the surface, yielding to pressure from the softness of the subjacent flesh. Its shape is like that of a heart, having a blunt apex before, and running backward in a broad basis. The out-lines of the bottoms of the hoofs are somewhat semi-circular.

The tail of this animal is very inconsiderable, in proportion to his bulk, not exceeding 17 or 18 inches in length, and not very thick: It has a great roughness round it, and a kind of twist or stricture towards the extremity, ending in a flatness, which gave occasion to authors to compare it to a *spatula*. On the sides of this flat part, a few hairs appeared, which were black and strong but short. It is further to be observed, that the hairs on the left side grow out a great way up towards the root of the tail (being shorter, as they are higher) like the fibres of a quill; whereas, on the right side, they grow no higher than the flat part. There is no other hair on any part of this young *Rhinoceros*, except a very small quantity on the posterior edge of the upper parts of the ears. A very particular quality is observable in this creature, of listening to any noise or rumour in the street; for though he were eating, sleeping, or under the greatest engagements nature imposes on him, he stops every thing suddenly, and lifts up his head, with great attention, till the noise is over.

The *penis* of the *Rhinoceros* is of an extraordinary shape: There is first a *theca*, or *præputium*, arising from the inguinal part of the belly, nearly like that of a horse, which conceals (as that does) the body, and *glans*, when retracted.

ed. As soon as the animal begins to extend it, the first thing that is extruded the *theca*, is a second sheath, of a light flesh colour, and pretty much in form like the flower of the *digitalis floribus purpureis*; and then out of this another hollow tube, which is analogous to the *glans penis* of other creatures, very like the flower of the *aristolochia floribus purpureis*, but of a lighter or fainter flesh-colour than the former. His keeper, who was a native of *Bengal*, would make him thus emit his *penis* when he pleased, while he lay on the ground, by rubbing his back and sides with straw; and, in its utmost state of erection, it never was extended to more than about eight or nine inches. Its termination is backward in a curved direction, so that he is a retromingent animal, and consequently retrogenerative. When he urinates, he turns his tail to the wall, and, extending his hind legs asunder, crumps himself up, and pisses out in a full stream as far as a cow.

The skin of the *Rhinoceros* is thick and impenetrable: In running one's fingers under one of the folds, and holding it with the thumb at top, it feels like a piece of board half an inch thick. It is covered all over, more or less, with hard incrustations like so many scabs; which are but small on the ridge of the neck and back, but grow larger by degrees downwards toward the belly, and are largest on the shoulders and buttocks, and continue pretty large upon the legs all along down; but, between the folds, the skin is as smooth and soft as silk, and easily penetrated; of a pale flesh-colour, which does not appear to view in the folds, except when the *Rhinoceros* extends them, but is always in view under the fore and hinder parts of the belly; but the middle is incrustated over like the rest of the skin. To call these scabbed roughnesses scales, as some have done, is to raise an idea in us of something regular; which in many authors is a great inaccuracy, and leads the reader into errors; for there is nothing formal in any of them.

As to the performance of this animal's several motions, let us consider the great wisdom of the CREATOR, in the contrivance that serves him for that purpose. The skin is intirely impenetrable and inflexible; if therefore it was continued all over the creature, as the skins of other animals, without any folds, he could not bend any way, and consequently not perform any necessary action; but that suppleness in the skins

of all other quadrupeds, which renders them flexible in all parts, is very well compensated in this animal by those folds; for, since it was necessary his skin should be hard for his defence, it was a noble contrivance, that the skin should be so soft and smooth underneath, that, when he bends himself any way, one part of this board-like skin should slip or shove over the other; and that these several folds should be placed in such parts of his body, as might facilitate the performance of every motion he might be disposed to.

There is a horn of one of these animals in the Museum of the Royal Society, almost a yard long, and at the base about half a foot over, in colour and smoothness like those of a bull, and solid quite through; and if we consider the size of the *Rhinoceros*, in proportion to its horn, that to which this belonged must have been a stupendous animal in size and strength, and from his fierceness when struck or hungry, appears to be quite indomitable and untractable, and must certainly run too fast for a man on foot to escape him.

He was not known to the *Greeks* till the time of *Aristotle*, nor to the *Romans* till 85 years before the christian æra, so that he seems to be the scarcest of all quadrupeds; *Rhinoceros* is his *Greek* name, from the horn on the nose, and he is with great probability supposed to be the *Unicorn* of the ancients.

The *Hebrew* name, which in our translation we render *Unicorn*, is by the *Septuagint*, *St Jerome*, *Tertullian* and others, translated *Rhinoceros*; as in *Job xxxix. 9. Numb. xxiii. 22. and xxiv. 8. Deut. xxxiii. 17.* from whence, and from the general accounts of the ancients, we may also gather that this creature was the strongest then known; and the *Rhinoceros* continues so to this day, not excepting the elephant; whereas the authors, who have multiplied *Unicorns*, have not pretended their force to come near that of the *Rhinoceros*.

To this may be objected the epigram of *Martial*, concluding

*Namque gravem gemino cornu sic extulit
urjum,*

Jactat ut impositas taurus in astra pilas.

Lib. I. Epig. 22.

and the medal of *Domitian*, on which is a *Rhinoceros* with two horns.

But if it can be made appear that there are two kinds of *Rhinoceros*, one *Asian*

Asian, and the other *African*, the first having one horn, and the latter two, and that probably those brought to *Rome* were of the latter sort, the difficulty will vanish.

Now that brought from *Asia* to the K. of *Portugal* in 1513, and those brought from thence to *England* in 1685, in 1739, and in 1741, were single-horned, and a great number of horns in the museums of the curious brought from the *East Indies* are also single. We may therefore venture to assert, that all those of *Asia* have but one horn on the nose; and this is confirmed by many gentlemen who have seen those creatures in *Persia*. On the other hand we are sure the *Romans* had always a great commerce with the *Africans*, and had many cargoes of wild beasts from that quarter of the world; it is therefore probable that they might more conveniently have obtained the several *Rhinoceros's* which were shewn in that city from *Africa* than *Asia*, as the former is so much nearer to *Italy*. And we do not want proof that the *African Rhinoceros* has 2 horns. *Peter Kolbe*, a *Dutchman*, in his voyage to the cape of *Good-hope*, says there is one in the summit of the nose like the other's, but having a smaller clove behind it. There are also two horns in *Sir Hans Sloan's* museum sticking to the same integuments, not more than an inch from each other; all which makes it probable, at least, that the *Asian Rhinoceros* was the *Unicorn* of the ancients, notwithstanding those exhibited at *Rome* had two horns; and probability, in questions of this nature, is all that can be reasonably expected by the most diligent enquirer.

Fig. I. and II. represent a model of a scaling ladder, which may be useful on many occasions; its rounds or steps, *A B*, are fastened at a proper distance from each other with the cords *C*. These rounds are thicker at one end than at the other; the bigger end is made hollow like a socket, and the small end is made to fit into it like a spigot, so that by putting the small ends into the large they form the long pole *D*, at the upper end of which is a great iron hook or holdfast *E*.

This pole being long enough to reach to the top of the wall, or place which is to be mounted, it is easy to fasten it by its hook *E*; and there is nothing more to be done than to pull the lower end, that is, the first round, and all the rest will be drawn out the one from the

other, and your pole will be turned into a ladder.

These ladders are very convenient, and are the more proper for secret expeditions, as they are very light, and may be put into a sack, and removed from place to place without giving any suspicion that you are carrying a ladder: It may be erected in the street, or put out of a window to assist people to escape at fires: And probably may be improv'd by master *Ephraim Hadon*, who advertises his skill in rope-ladders.

For *Fig. III. IV.* (See p. 164.)

Fig. V. represents a simple, yet useful apparatus, called the weavers larum, from its being chiefly or originally used by persons of that trade, who have frequent occasion to get up very early to their work, and was communicated to the *Royal Society* by *Mr Arderon* of *Norwich*, now one of its members.

a Represents a board, which hangs commonly against a wall, divided and figured according to the size of the candle made use of.*

b A little shelf to place the candle on.

cc A thread or packthread, tied fast at *d*, and hanging over a pulley at *e*, whereto a weight is hung at *f*.

By sliding the spring of the candlestick *g*, up or down, as occasion requires, the flame of the candle is raised as many hours above the thread as the person that adjusts it designs to lie before he is call'd up. At the designed hour the candle burns the thread in two, the weight falls, and by its noise seldom fails to wake the person.

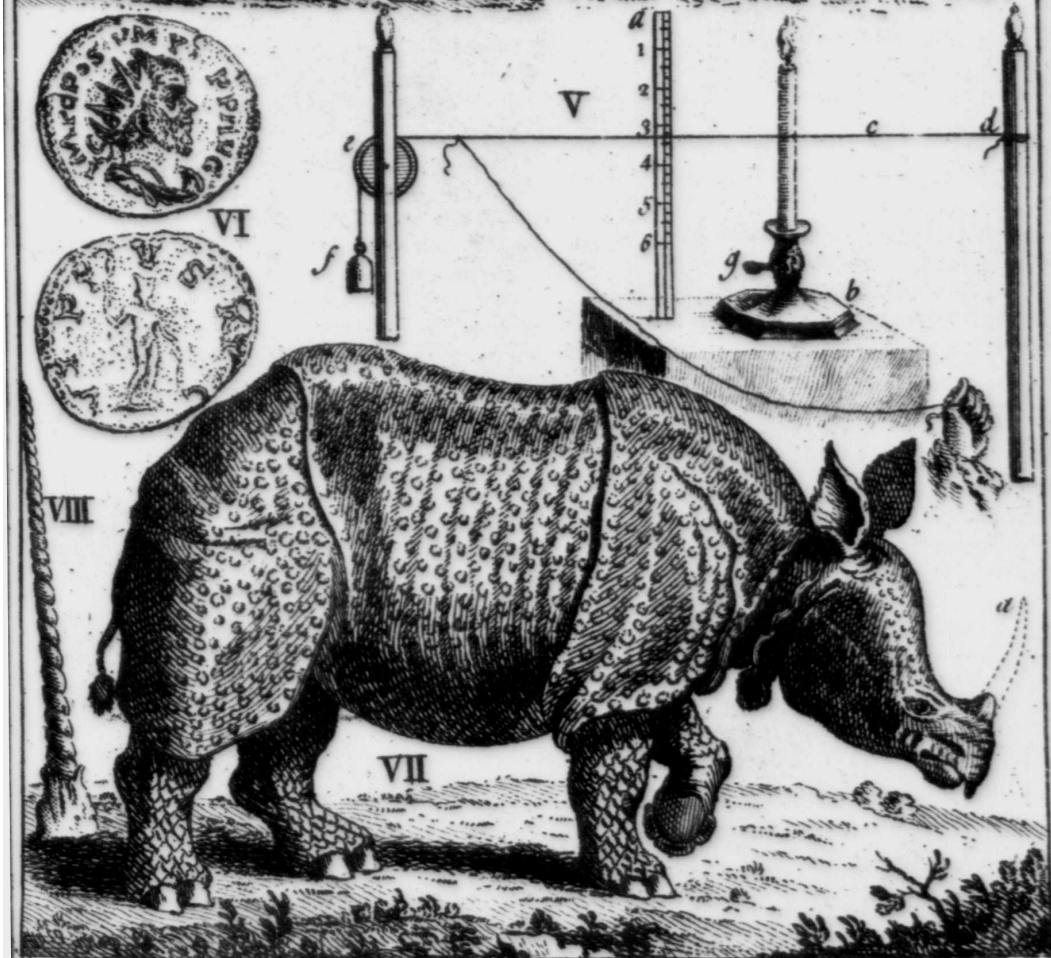
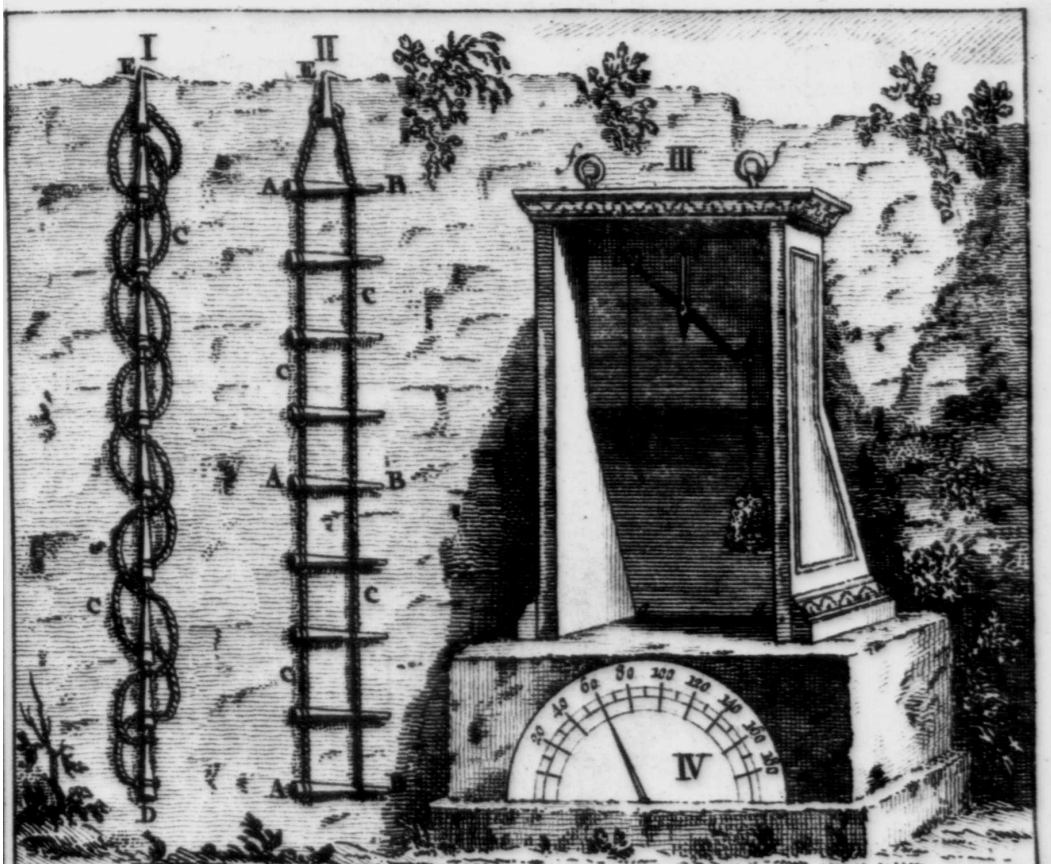
But if the man who makes use of this contrivance happens to be of a more than commonly sleepy disposition, in such case another thread is tied to that part of the line *cc* which is next the pulley, and its other end is twisted round the thumb or wrist of the sleepy person, whereby, when the candle burns the line, and the weight falls, he receives such a sudden pull as can hardly fail to wake him, as the drawing will easily explain.

If the line for a few inches on each side the candle be wire, with a short thread only just in the middle where the candle is placed, there can be no danger of doing mischief by the fire's running along the line.

Fig. VI. About four months since

two

* For want of such a board a common ruler is frequently used, to set the number of hours between the flame of the candle and the thread.





two urns were dug up in *New Forest, Hampshire*, full of such coins as here represented; the reverse in some of them is a little different. The head is of *Posthumus* the last Roman emperor that was in *Britain*; and the coin is common.

Fig. VIII. The horn of the Narwhale, the length 14 feet (See p. 174 D H) as given by *M. Egede* in his history of *Greenland*.

Mr URBAN,

THE note to the Epigram on *Mira*, p. 194, was very aptly added, for when I was in *New England*, in the year 1745, I had the pleasure of seeing the celebrated *Polly Baker*, who was then, though near 60 years of age, a comely woman, and the wife of *Paul Dudley, Esq;* of *Roxbury*, about two miles from *Boston*, who marry'd her, as it is mentioned in the papers, and had 15 children by her. I send you this information, because it has been insinuated, that the speech publish'd in her name, was entirely fictitious; that it could not be the speech of any woman (in which many females for different reasons concur) but was entirely the invention of some *Templer* or *Garrettee*.

It must be noted that it is the custom in this country, for young persons between whom there is a courtship, or treaty of marriage, to lye together, the woman having her *petticoats* on, and the man his *breeches*, and afterwards, if they do not fall out, they confess the covenant at church, in the midst of the congregation, and to the minister, who declares the marriage legal; and if any thing criminal has been acted, orders a punishment accordingly, sometimes of forty stripes save one.

I am, Sir, Yours, &c.

WILLIAM SMITH.
See answer to this 1748: 332

Mr URBAN,

THE great utility of a *Lying-in Hospital*, mentioned in the scheme (proposed p. 164 B) for augmenting the revenue of the foundling hospital, which scheme I have heard much approv'd, was very proper, and proceeded from a truly charitable principle; but it was mentioned in such manner as seem'd to assert that there was not any hospital for *lying-in women* in this metropolis, as in the city of *Dublin*. That you may make amends for this oversight, and do justice to the noble and worthy founders, I send you the inclosed paper, of which you will be pleas'd to take proper notice. I am, your humble servant, J. B.

Abstract of an Account of the MIDDLESEX Hospital for the Reception of Sick, or Lame, and LYING-IN WOMEN.

The Duke of Portland President.

Sir Hugh Smithson Vice-President.

THE happy effects arising from the several hospitals erected about these two great cities for the reception of diseas'd poor, will sufficiently justify the institution of this. And it is hoped that the situation of it (in *Windmill-street, Hampstead-road*, near *St Giles's*, a populous part of the town, at a great distance from other hospitals) and its more extensive use in providing for the distresses of *poor women with child*, will recommend it to the assistance and the contribution of those whom *Humanity* and *Religion* inspire with benevolence.

This hospital consists of two convenient houses, adjoining to each other, in an airy situation, was instituted in *August 1745*, and is now capable of receiving 30 inn-patients, who are furnished with advice, medicines, lodging and diet, and no security required for their burial.

Married women only are admitted in the last month of their pregnancy; they are to be under the care of the man midwife (*Mr Layard*) to be deliver'd by him, and furnished with all necessaries at the charge of the hospital. In dangerous cases *Dr Sandys* will attend, but no pupils in this ward.

A subscriber of three guineas per Ann. (which makes a governor) may recommend, and have in the house, at one time, either a *lying-in woman*, or a *sick or lame*. A subscriber of five guineas, both. A subscriber of 30 guineas down is a governor for life, with the same privilege. Contributors of lesser sums may also recommend sick and lame persons. — Tuesday is the day of admission, but accidents are admitted every day without recommendation. — Subscriptions are received by *Hoare* and *Arnold*, bankers, in *Fleet-street*.

An hospital for the reception of poor persons visited with the small pox, is lately erected, and has preserv'd several lives. It is also supported by charitable subscriptions, which are received by *Sir Joseph* and *Sir Thomas Hankey*, in *Fenchurch-street*, and by *Mess. Campbell* and *Bruce*, in the *Strand*, bankers.

Mr URBAN,

I Apprehend that all gentlemen of taste will esteem themselves indebted to the person who has oblig'd the world with the abstracts from *Masenius*, and so happily trac'd the re-