

Europe, which attacked both man and beast. Pestilence, sometimes the result of scarcity, prevailed at Rome and in the East in the years 376, 410, 467, 484, 539, 544. The last in some respects resembled the plague at Athens, in other respects differing. In 558, the 33rd of the Emperor Justinian, this fatal pestilence again attacked Constantinople.

The historic sketch of pestilential eruptive fevers has brought us to that era to which the first appearance of small-pox has been usually assigned, namely, A.D. 568 or 569, during the siege of Mecca by the Abyssinian army under Abrahah the Viceroy. Accounts of pestilential fevers, still more strongly marked in their resemblance to small-pox, and in their essential difference from plague, occur so frequently in the ecclesiastical annals as to weary the reader. See Willan's *Dissertation on the Antiquity of Small-pox*.

BIBLIOTHECAR. CHELHAM.

(To be continued.)

THE RHINOCEROS.

(3rd S. ix. 139.)

The Rhinoceros referred to by H. E. as having been advertised in the *London Gazette* of October 12, 1684, as "the first brought into England," was probably the animal concerning which and the Lord Keeper Guildford, Roger North relates an anecdote, which it were doing injustice to him to repeat in language less racy than his own:—

"The beast in question occasioned," says Roger, "the most impudent buffoon lie to be raised upon him [the Lord Keeper], and with brazen affirmations of truth to it, dispersed from the court one morning, that ever came into fools-heads, and Satan himself would not have owned it for his legitimate issue. It fell out thus: A merchant of *Sir Dudley North's* acquaintance had brought over an enormous rhinoceros, to be sold to showmen for profit. It is a noble beast, wonderfully armed by nature for offence, but more for defence, being covered with impenetrable shields, which no weapon would make any impression upon, and a rarity so great, that few men in our country have in their whole lives opportunity to see so singular an animal. This merchant told *Sir Dudley North*, that if he, with a friend or two, had a mind to see it, they might take the opportunity at his house before it was sold. Hereupon, *Sir Dudley North* proposed to his brother, *The Lord Keeper*, to go with him upon this expedition; which he did, and came away exceedingly satisfied with the curiosity he had seen. But whether he was dogged to find out where he and his brother housed in the city, or flying fame carried an account of the voyage to court, I know not; but it is certain that the very next morning, a bruit went from thence all over the town, and (as factious reports use to run) in a very short time, viz., that his Lordship rode on the rhinoceros; than which a more infantine exploit could not have been fastened upon him. And most people were struck with amazement at it, and diverse run here and there to find out whether it was thus or no, and soon after dinner some Lords and others came to his Lordship to know the truth from himself;

for the tellers of the lie affirmed it positively, as of their own knowledge. That did not give his Lordship much disturbance, for he expected no better from his adversaries; but that his friends, intelligent persons who must know him to be far from guilty of any childish levity, should believe it, was what roused him extremely; and much more when they had the face to come to him to know if it were true. I never saw him in such a rage, and to lay about him with affronts (which he keenly bestowed upon the minor courtiers that came on that errand) as then; for he sent them away with seas in their ear. And he was seriously angry with his own brother, *Sir Dudley North*, because he did not contradict the lie in sudden and direct terms, but laughed, as taking the question put to him for a banter, till by iterations he was brought to it. For some Lords came, and because they seemed to attribute somewhat to the avowed positiveness of the reporters, he chose rather to send for his brother to attest, than to impose his bare denial. And so it passed, and the noble Earl [of *Sunderland*] with *Jeffries* and others of that crew, made merry, and never blushed at the lies of their own making, but valued themselves upon it as a very good jest."—*North's Lives*, 4to; edition 1744, pp. 280-1.

B. BLUNDELL, F.S.A.

"1684. 22nd October. I went with *Sir William Godolphin* to see the Rhinoceros, or Unicorn, being the first that I suppose was ever brought into England. He belonged to some East India Merchants, and was sold (as I remember) for above 2000*l*."—*Evelyn's Diary*.

EDW. MARSHALL.

THE FLYING HIGHWAYMAN.

(3rd S. ix. 81.)

I am sorry it is not in my power to help your correspondent, *Ein Frager*, in his inquiry after this redoubted individual; but the mention of him, coupled with what I happen to know was the state of the environs of London in the latter part of the eighteenth century with regard to highway robbers of this class, has called up in my mind a set of confirmatory reminiscences. My father used to relate an anecdote of his being stopped and attempted to be robbed by a highwayman in broad daylight in a carriage on *Brixton Causeway*. *Blackheath*, *Bagshot Heath*, *Enfield Chase*, *Epping Forest*, all the roads around the metropolis had stories of this kind attached to them. For my own part, I was eye-witness to a scene that made so indelible an impression upon me as not to have been effaced in a lapse of time that some of your readers may hesitate to give me credit for.

I was walking down *Ludgate Hill* on the right-hand side towards what was then *Fleet Market*, and had nearly reached the bottom of the hill, when my attention was called to an outbreak of shouting in the direction of *Bridge Street*, *Blackfriars*. I stopped to observe from what it was proceeding, when, to my astonishment, I saw on a sudden a stout, resolute-looking man well mounted, hastily turning the corner of the street. The