

Messrs. Beddard and Murie exhibited some drawings and specimens illustrative of the cause of death of an African Rhinoceros (*R. bicornis*), and made the following remarks:—

“The Society purchased from Mr. Carl Hagenbeck, of Hamburg in September 1868, a young male African Rhinoceros (*R. bicornis*) which had been captured in the neighbourhood of Cassala, Upper Nubia. The animal in question has been figured in the ‘Proceedings,’ 1868, pl. 41, and again in Dr. Sclater’s memoir ‘On the Rhinoceroses now or lately living in the Society’s Menagerie’ (‘Transactions,’ vol. ix. pl. 99). The relative differences in the size of the anterior and posterior horns according to age are therein shown, and may be instructively compared with their different proportions in the more aged animal, as illustrated in the outline diagram taken after its death, and where the posterior horn is the largest. Whether, therefore, the so-called *R. keitloa* may eventually turn out to be only a variety due to age and other circumstances remains a doubtful and open question.

“Our young *R. bicornis* when received was supposed to be about 2 years old. As it lived in the Gardens close upon 22 years, its age may be roughly reckoned at 24 or 25 years. When a denizen of the Menagerie it fed well and thrived amazingly, latterly reaching a gigantic size.

“For a long time this African Rhinoceros exhibited every appearance of perfect health and activity. But a few years back there annually appeared what may be regarded as an eruption of the skin, in the form of slight roughened elevations, which became abraded with an ulcerous aspect. These, however, passed away without leaving any bad effects. The sores on the legs were regularly washed with a syringe of tepid water containing a little carbolic acid. The most noticeable sores appeared on those parts of the animal which rested on the ground, and might be compared to the bed-sores of bed-ridden human beings.

“About a twelvemonth ago its Keeper began to observe that it declined in flesh, though its appetite still continued fairly good. Within a couple of months ago more prominent symptoms of wasting appeared. But even quite towards the last, it still took its food, though seemingly a trifle more dainty in its appetite. Without any other striking feature of illness, it died on Sunday, the 12th April.

“On a *post-mortem* examination of the body the next day, the flesh generally was seen to be soft, flabby, and anæmic. For such a huge body it was decidedly lean and impoverished, and the fatty tissue not only meagre in quantity, but everywhere reduced to a watery condition. In other words, the carcass bore evidence of gradual wasting or debility having occurred.

“In the stomach there was a considerable amount of food—viz. chopped hay, straw, carrots, and other vegetable substances; and along the intestinal tract, especially the colon and cæcum, much pulpy material in various stages of digestion. Altogether most of the visceral organs and the brain were sound in general aspect.