

POPULAR OFFICIAL GUIDE  
TO THE  
New York Zoological Park

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WITH MAPS, PLANS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

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## THE ELEPHANT HOUSE, No. 20.

Of its buildings for animals, the Elephant House is the culminating feature of the Zoological Park, and it comes quite near to being the last of the series. In token of these facts, it is fittingly crowned with a dome. Through its position in the general plan it closes a wide gap, and effectively links together the northern and southern halves of the establishment.

The erection of this great structure began in 1907, and the building was completed and its inmates housed in the fall of 1908. The yards surrounding the structure were finished in 1909.

Any building which can comfortably accommodate a representative collection of the largest of all living land animals, must unquestionably be large and substantial. There is no pleasure in seeing a ponderous elephant chained to the floor of a small room, unable even to walk to and fro, and never permitted to roam at will in the open air and sunlight. It is no wonder that dungeon-kept elephants go mad, and do mischief. If an elephant—or for that matter any animal—cannot be kept in *comfortable* captivity, then let it not be kept at all.

The Elephant House of the City of New York is a large and roomy structure, built to render good service for two centuries. Its extreme length over all is 170 feet, and its width is 84 feet. Its two sides are divided into 8 huge compartments, of which 4 are for elephants, 2 for rhinoceroses and 2 for hippopotami. Each of these is 24x21½ feet.

The Hippopotami have within the building a tank 24x21 feet, and 8 feet in total depth; and another will be constructed in their corral.

Each end of the building furnishes two cages of smaller dimensions, for tapirs, and young elephants. The whole area surrounding the building, excepting the axial walk, is devoted to open-air yards, so arranged that each cage in the interior connects directly with a corral which affords both sunshine and shade. Nature seems to have made this beautiful open grove—strangely free from trees in its center—especially for the purposes to which it now is devoted.

recognized. The other species are the South African Elephant, (*E. capensis*), the German-East-African Elephant, (*E. knochenhaueri*), and the West African Elephant, (*E. cyclotis*).

After some years of waiting, and many futile efforts, we have at last come into possession of a pair of young Sudan Elephants, representing, so we believe, the great species to which belonged Jumbo, and also the bearer of the enormous tusks presented to the Zoological Society by Mr. Charles T. Barney. Like all elephants newly arrived from Africa, they are young, and small; but if they have good health they will grow very rapidly, and about A. D. 1927 they should attain full stature,—11 feet at the shoulders for the male, or thereabouts.

The different species of elephants are most easily recognized by their ears. Compare the enormous "sail-area" of the ears of this species with the small, triangular ear of the Indian elephant, and the small, round ear of the next species.

**The West African Elephant**, (*Elephas cyclotis*), of equatorial West Africa, especially the Congo country, is apparently a small species, not exceeding seven feet in height,—even if that height ever is attained. Mr. Carl Hagenbeck reports that out of nearly 300 pairs of tusks of this species examined by him in the German ivory market, not one pair exceeded two feet in length, and many measured only 10 inches.

On July 25, 1905, we received a male specimen representing this species, as a gift from Mr. Barney. It is strikingly marked by its small round ears, and the presence of 5 toes on each fore-foot and 4 on the hind foot, the number in the East African species being 4 and 3, respectively. At the time of its arrival, little "Congo" stood 43 inches in shoulder height, his weight was precisely 600 pounds, and his tusks were 4 inches long. Owing to a peculiar skin disease which he brought with him from Africa, his growth has been retarded, and thus far his increase in height has not been satisfactory.

Regarding the life history and distribution of this odd species, much remains to be ascertained; and precise information is greatly desired.

**The African Two-Horned Rhinoceros**, (*Rhinoceros bicornis*), is already represented by two fine young specimens, both of which were acquired in 1906. Fortunately one is a male and the other a female. The former is a gift from Mr. Frederick G. Bourne. The female was captured in July,





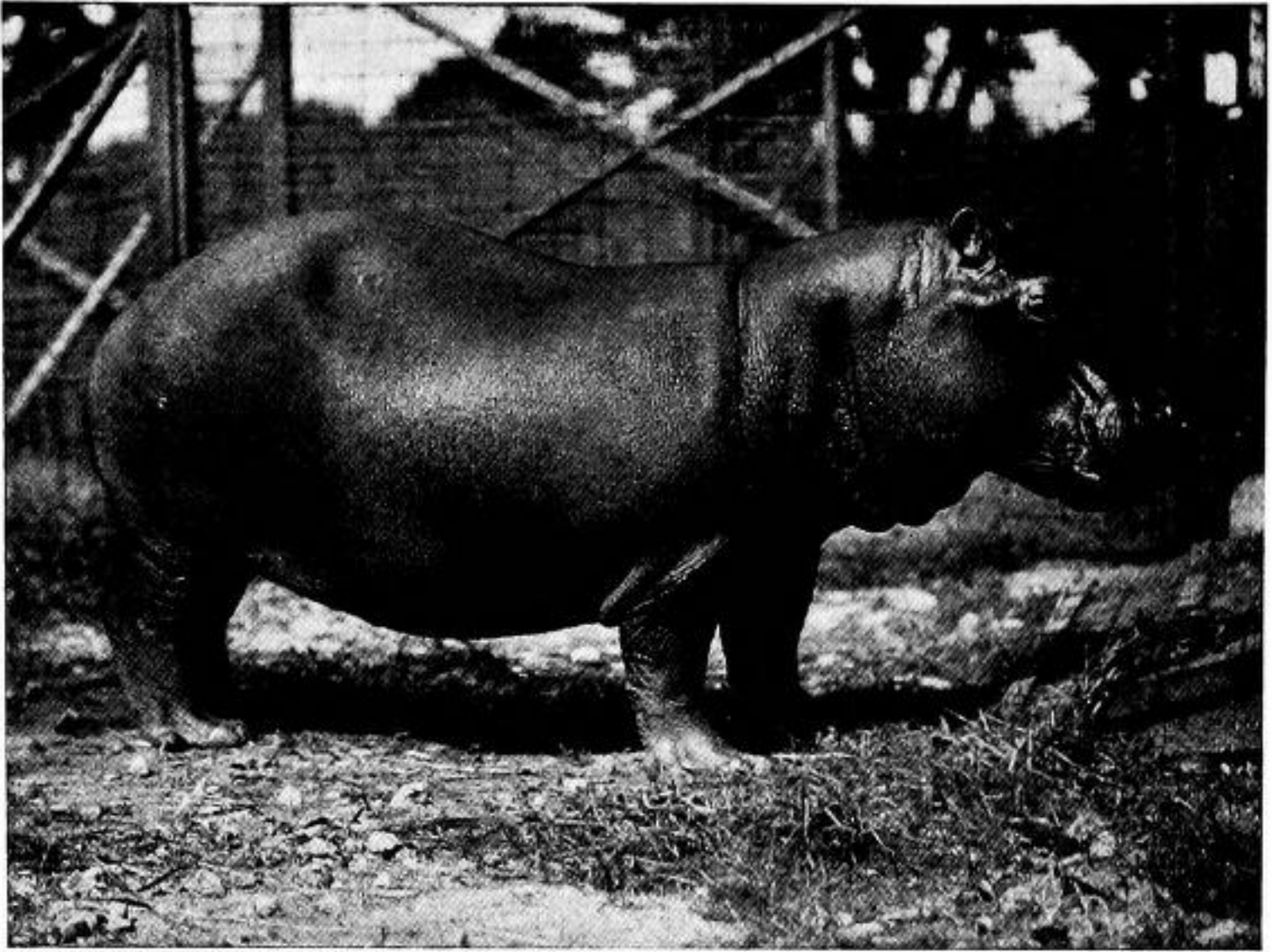
YOUNG AFRICAN TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

1905, in the northern point of German East Africa, within about sixty miles of the head of Speke Gulf, which is the southeastern arm of Lake Victoria Nyanza. The elevation is between 4,000 and 5,000 feet. It was slung under a pole, and carried, six days' journey on men's shoulders, to the shore of the lake.

The male specimen was captured very near the same spot which furnished the female, but one year later, (July, 1906), and in the same manner was carried to the lake front. From thence, both animals were transported by steamer to Port Florence, at the head of the Uganda Railway, thence by rail 500 miles to Mombasa.

On April 1, 1907, the male Rhinoceros,—which has been named "Speke,"—was 30 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches in shoulder height, and the female, christened "Victoria," was 39 inches high. Both animals are now in excellent health, and the latter has grown very rapidly since her arrival here.

The African Two-Horned Rhinoceros once was very abundant throughout the whole of the fertile plains region of east and south Africa, but the onslaughts of hunters have exterminated it from probably nine-tenths of the territory that it once occupied. To-day, the Englishmen of Africa are earnestly endeavoring to regulate and abate the slaughter



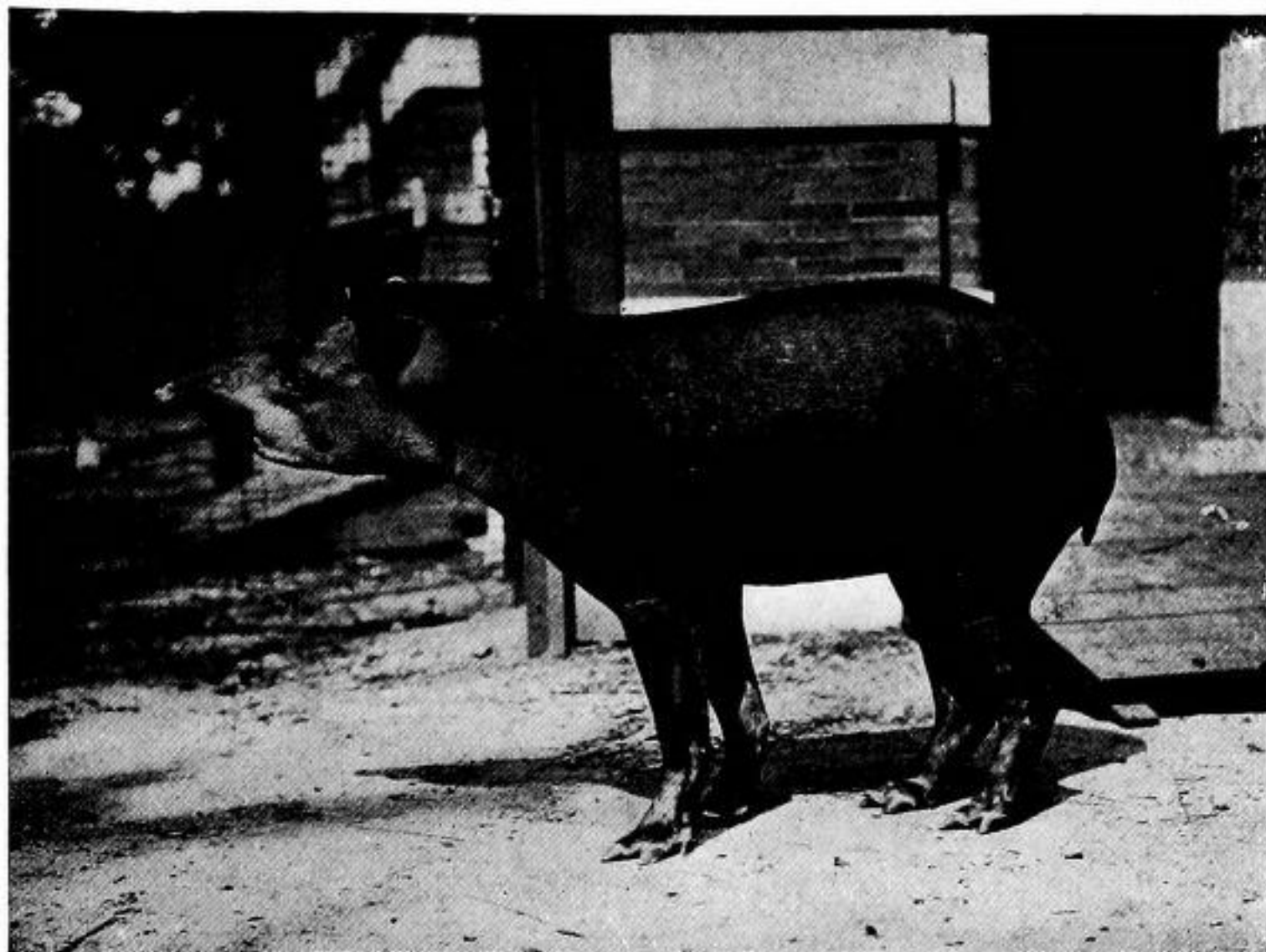
HIPPOPOTAMUS.

of African big game, and beyond doubt safe, good results in that line are being accomplished. It is to be hoped that the protection lines will now be drawn so tightly around the game that remains that it will be perpetuated for centuries to come.

**The Indian Rhinoceros, (*Rhinoceros unicornis*).**—A full-grown Indian Rhinoceros is one of the most wonderful of all living animals. It seems like a prehistoric monster, belonging to the days of the dinosaurs, rather than a creature of to-day; and the killing of so grand a creature solely for the sake of "sport," and a stuffed head to hang upon a wall, is murder, no less. It is quite time that the most wonderful works of animated Nature should universally be recognized as safe from attack with the rifle and knife.

So pronounced is the rarity of the great Indian Rhinoceros, it is a fact that for nearly fifteen years no living specimens came into the wild-animal market. At last, however, the persistence and industry of the renowned Carl Hagenbeck was rewarded by the capture, in 1906, of four young specimens, all of which reached Hamburg in May, 1907. One of the best specimens of the quartette was purchased for the New York Zoological Park, and its arrival at the Park is expected





SOUTH AMERICAN TAPIR.

to be coincident with the issue of this edition of the Guide Book to the members of the Society.

The Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros is the largest of all living rhinoceroses. A full-grown male is about 5 feet, 6 inches in shoulder height, and 10 feet 6 inches long from end of nose to root of tail. The length of the horn is not great, rarely exceeding 12 inches. The skin is very thick, and lies upon the animal in great rigid slabs which are divided by articulating areas of thinner skin.

This species now is so greatly reduced in number and in area that it is found only in a small portion of northeastern India, and is practically restricted to the plains of Assam. It dislikes hills, and inhabits the swampy plains that are thickly covered with high, coarse grass and brush. In disposition it is by no means savage or dangerous to man.

**The Hippopotamus**, (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), is more frequently seen in captivity than any of the large rhinoceroses, or the African elephant. In the lakes and large rivers of central East Africa it still exists in fair numbers, and still is killed for "sport."

Strange as it may seem, this very inert and usually lethargic monster can, under what it deems just provocation, become very angry, and even dangerous. Four years ago,