

horn, 1 foot 7 inches ; of posterior horn, 7 inches ; length from base of front horn to tail, 14 feet 6 inches.

In 1873 I made a note that I had seen a great many black rhinoceroses and one of the square-mouthed species scrambling with great activity up and down steep stony hills.

This latter animal must, however, have gone astray, as he was the only one of his kind that I ever saw in this kind of ground.

As these animals feed entirely upon grass, open valleys or open forest country with good pasturage amongst the trees, as in Mashunaland, were necessary to their existence, and although they used to be plentiful right up to the edge of the hilly country that extends from the Victoria Falls to the junction of the Gwai and Tchangani Rivers, the beast I have spoken of above was the only one that I ever saw amongst the broken country. Like all rhinoceroses the square-mouthed species was an inquisitive animal. I remember one coming to my camp one night evidently attracted by the fire. We saw it approaching some distance away, as the moon, which was in its first quarter, had not yet set. It came on very slowly until it was within 20 yards of our camp fire, and I could see plainly that it belonged to the square-mouthed species. One of my Kafirs then threw a fire stump at it, which struck the ground just in front of its nose. It at once halted, giving a kind of sniff or snort at the smouldering wood. A second bit of wood burning at one end hit the beast fair on the snout, sending a spray of sparks over it. This seemed to alarm it, for it at once wheeled round and trotted off.

F. C. SELOUS.

#### HOLMWOOD'S RHINOCEROS (*Rhinoceros holmwoodi*)

The so-called Holmwood's rhinoceros, although it has been classed by scientists, can scarcely be accepted as a true species. It has been mainly created from a number of fine, slender single horns, collected by the late

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Mr. F. Holmwood during a residence in East Africa. It has been supposed, from the appearance of these horns, that the animals from which they were obtained were related to Burchell's rhinoceros. The point is still in doubt, but later opinions of hunters and naturalists incline one to the belief that Mr. Holmwood's specimens merely represent the pick of curious and remarkable horns obtained from the ordinary black rhinoceros. Mr. A. H. Neumann, an excellent authority, states in a note on page 54 of *Elephant Hunting in East Equatorial Africa*, "I have a shrewd suspicion that the range of that interesting species (Holmwood's rhinoceros) is limited to the bazaars of Zanzibar."

H. A. BRYDEN.

### THE ASSES AND ZEBRAS

*Family* EQUIDÆ.

*Genus* EQUUS.

From other members of the Odd-toed group the horses (under which term are included asses and zebras) differ by the reduction of the toes to a single one in each limb; this being enclosed in a firm and rounded hoof. They have front teeth in both jaws; and the grinding-teeth have very tall prismatic crowns, with their hollows completely filled by the substance known as cement. The neck is maned; the tail, which is long, may be either covered with long hair throughout, or tufted at the end with the same; and peculiar hard callosities are present on the inner sides of either the fore, or both pairs of limbs. The family is now confined, in a wild state, to the Old World, and may be divided into three groups; two of these being represented in Africa, to which one is restricted.

In the asses (sub-genus *Asinus*) the mane is erect, the upper half of the tail short-haired, and the callosities are confined to the fore limbs; the ears being long, the head large, the hoofs comparatively narrow, and the coat uniformly coloured, with the exception (at most) of