

POPULAR
HISTORY OF ANIMALS
FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE

BY
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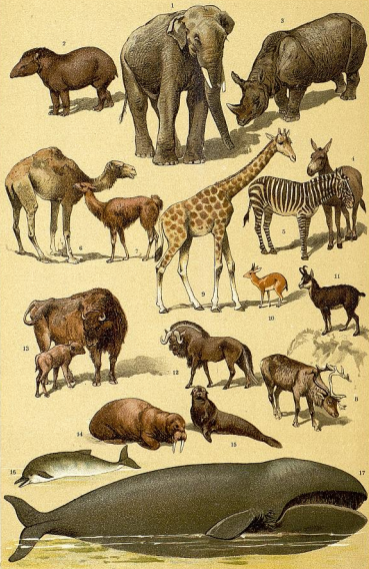
*WITH 13 COLOURED PLATES AND NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS
IN THE TEXT*

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CHAPTER XII.

HOOFED MAMMALS.



THIS Order contains a large number of animals possessing the common character that the toes are enclosed in hoofs. Most of them live on the ground; none burrow; but the Hippopotamus is aquatic, and some of the Coneys are quite at home among the branches of trees. Nearly all feed on vegetable substances, though some few—like the Pigs—will eat anything that comes in their way. They are arranged in four groups: the Elephants, the Coneys, Odd-toed Mammals, and Even-toed Mammals (the reference being to the number of digits on the hind limbs).

ELEPHANTS.

These are the largest living quadrupeds—of massive build, walking softly and silently on the tips of their digits, of which there are five on each limb, united by a cushion-like pad that forms a flat sole. The head is large and joined to the body by a short neck, and the bones of the skull are filled with air-spaces divided by thin partitions, thus securing lightness. The brain is comparatively small; and the nose is produced into a flexible proboscis, or trunk, divided down the middle so as to form two tubes, at the ends of which are the nostrils. There are no canine teeth, and no incisors in the lower jaw; those of the upper jaw are very long, and are popularly called "tusks." They grow from behind as fast as they are worn away in front, like the incisors of a mouse or a rabbit. Only one molar tooth is in use on each side in each jaw at the same time.

The skin is very thick, and scantily covered with coarse, bristly hair. The eyes are small; but the senses, especially those of hearing and smell, are acute. The limbs are set on to the immense trunk almost perpendicularly, and the great length of the thigh brings the knee almost in the position of that of the horse's hock. From this formation of the limbs, it follows that elephants cannot jump either over or across an obstacle. A trench 7 feet wide is impassable to an elephant, though the stride of a large one is about $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

The trunk serves many of the purposes of a hand, and its extremities act as lips. With it these animals gather food and convey it to the mouth; into it water can be drawn up and may be then blown into the mouth or scattered over the body shower-bath fashion. Sand and dust

good terms with visitors, and will follow one all round the paddock for a biscuit. In Cape Colony they have been broken to saddle and ridden by a lady, and to harness, and a team of them driven in a coach. The Dauw, or Burchell's Zebra, is somewhat larger and stronger. The ground colour is yellow, and the limbs and tail are not striped, but individuals vary greatly in this respect.

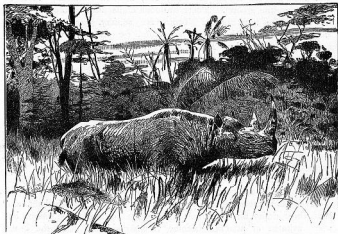
The Tapirs are large animals, of pig-like form, with the snout produced into a short trunk, which is of great use in pulling down and breaking off shoots of trees, etc., and in collecting roots or plants from the ground. There are four digits on the fore-limbs, and three on the hind limbs. Tapirs are solitary, nocturnal animals, frequenting the neighbourhood of water, for they are very fond of bathing. The American Tapir (Plate IV., No. 2) is found in Brazil and Paraguay, and the north of the Argentine Republic. It is about the size of a small donkey, dark brown in colour when full grown, but when young it is marked with yellowish stripes and spots, as are all the other species. It has a small, stiff mane. It is sometimes domesticated, and becomes tame and familiar. Its flesh is eaten, and its skin makes excellent leather. Roulin's Tapir is found at great elevations in the Cordilleras, and there are two other American species. The Indian or Malayan Tapir, from Sumatra, Borneo, and Malacca, is rather larger than the American Tapir, and has no mane. Like the common species of the New World, it is often domesticated. Its head, neck, and limbs are glossy black, and the back, rump, and sides white, the two colours meeting without shading into each other.

The Rhinoceroses are only exceeded in size by the Elephant, and have three digits on each limb. They are of timid disposition, but when irritated or attacked become very formidable, using the horns on the nose with great effect. Their diet is entirely vegetable; they are more active towards evening and at night than during the day, and are fond of bathing, and wallowing in mud. These are now confined to Asia and Africa, and it is from the former continent that the rhinoceroses in menageries and zoological gardens are chiefly procured. They are distinguished from the African forms by the skin being raised into folds, called "shields," which make these creatures look somewhat as if they were clad in armour. The "horns" are composed of fibres, bound together in a solid mass.

The Indian Rhinoceros (Plate IV., No. 3), with a single horn, is often seen in zoological collections. "Old Jim" has lived at the Regent's Park Gardens since 1864. He is said to be 12 feet long, as much round, and about 5 feet high at the shoulder. The Javan Rhinoceros, found from Calcutta to the Malay Peninsula, and in Java, Sumatra, and

Borneo, is smaller, and the folds of the skin are not so strongly marked. The Sumatran Rhinoceros, with two horns, is the smallest of the family, and there is a variety from Chittagong called the Hairy-eared Rhinoceros.

There are two African Rhinoceroses, both with two horns. They are generally called the Black and the White Rhinoceros, though the so-called White animal is the darker-coloured of the two. It is better, therefore, to call it the Square-mouthed Rhinoceros. Mr. Nicholson,



AFRICAN RHINOCEROS.

an old African hunter, says that the name "White" was given because albinos are very common, and that he himself shot three of a light yellow or cream colour. A specimen of the Black Rhinoceros lived in the Regent's Park Gardens for twenty-three years. The latter is almost extinct, and it is scarcely probable that another specimen will be brought alive to this country.

Mr. R. T. Coryndon, who shot two Square-mouthed Rhinoceroses in 1893, and brought home their skins and skeletons, says that the Black Rhinoceros has a prehensile upper-lip and a small head, and feeds entirely on leaves and twigs. The calf always follows the mother. The Square-mouthed Rhinoceros has a disproportionately large head, with a jaw that looks as if it were cut off square in front, and feeds

entirely on grass. The calf always runs just before the cow, which guides it by the pressure of her horn upon its flank.

Other forms have been described as species, but these have been only varieties, or individuals showing some peculiarities in the horns. Sir John Willoughby shot a Black Rhinoceros with three horns. These were brought to England and exhibited at a meeting of the Zoological Society.

The natives take these animals in "game pits." Sir John Willoughby fell into one, and thus describes his mishap: "I was swinging along a pass between two small hills where the grass was dry and smooth, and the path apparently well trodden by game. Suddenly the ground gave way under me, and I found myself supported by my arms, with my legs dangling in space, and vainly struggling to reach something more solid. The gun-bearers rushed to my assistance, and soon extricated me from my undignified and uncomfortable position. This pit, unlike many others, was luckily free from spikes and stakes, but the way in which the mouth was concealed by the smooth and well-trodden grass was most creditable to the artist who had planned and arranged it, and I should imagine quite capable of deceiving an animal with four legs as well as one with only two."

EVEN-TOED MAMMALS.

In this group the number of digits on each limb is even. In most of these animals where four toes are present, two of them (the second and fifth) are useless for walking on, as in the Ox and the Pig. A line drawn down the middle of the limb would pass between the third and fourth digits. In the Odd-toed Mammals, a similar line would pass down the third digit. Most of the Even-toed Mammals "divide the hoof and chew the cud," and in all the stomach is complex. Here belong the Pigs, Hippopotamuses, Cattle, Sheep and Goats, Antelopes, Deer, Giraffes, and Camels, with their allies from the New World.

The Pigs possess a short, generally cylindrical snout, at the end of which the nostrils are situated, used to turn up the ground in searching for food. There are four digits on each limb, two only of which touch the ground in walking. The teeth are of three kinds, and the incisors are developed in wild males into formidable tusks. The Domestic Pig, which has run into many breeds, is too well known to need description. The Wild Boar, from which it is descended, is still found in many parts of Europe, the North of Africa, and Asia Minor, but has been extinct in England for more than two hundred years. It is driven and shot by European sportsmen. The Indian species is larger