

### THE WHITE RHINOCEROS IN ZULULAND.

SIR,—I notice in Mr George Lacy's letter in the *Field* of June 22 that he expresses astonishment at the announcement made by Mr C. R. Varndell that he shot a white rhinoceros in Zululand last year.

I have lately returned from South Africa, and visited an old friend of mine out there—Mr W. F. Firmstone, living at 'Ngoka, near Charlestown. His brother, Mr G. Firmstone, shot a fine white rhinoceros bull on the Black Unwalosi, Zululand, last year, some few miles above the junction of the Black and White Unwalosi rivers. I saw the skin (which Mr Firmstone has in his possession), and I photographed the horn, which measured 34in. round the bend. I inclose photograph of the horn for publication. The two front feet of the animal figure at the base of the horn.



I have seen a specimen of the head of the white rhinoceros (*R. simus*), and an entire specimen of the black rhinoceros (*R. bicornis*), in the museum in Capetown, shot by Mr Selous; and it is impossible to mistake a white rhinoceros when you see him—though nothing at all to do with being white, but considerably less dark than the black rhino. He is a larger animal than

the black, and has a good deal larger head. I can testify emphatically to the rhinoceros killed by Mr Firmstone last year in Zululand being a specimen of the white rhinoceros (*R. simus*). C. D. GUISE.

SIR,—I can assure Mr George Lacy, in answer to his letter in the last *Field*, that there were plenty of white rhinoceros in Zululand in 1870. I and three friends (all of whom I survive, and whose loss I still mourn, and whose memories I still cherish) went into the country under the guidance and management of John Dunn (whom we found a most excellent manager and good comrade) for four months, May to September; and we had good sport. On looking at my diary I find we killed twenty-seven rhinoceros, most of which were the so-called white (but I have not got the number of each), some with very long horns. Five were killed by one of us on the same day. I myself got a right and left galloping to head a couple and jumping off my horse to shoot. One of our party was laid up for a month in the best shooting ground, having been mauled and nearly killed by a lion near Machlotoana Plain. John Dunn kindly left the rhinos for us, as we were keen.

I certainly supposed they had been cleared out of the country years ago, but they were there in 1870. I have not heard of his death, so hope that John Dunn is still alive.

R. J. EDMUNDS.

Edderton, Welshpool, June 24.

SIR—Having known Mr C. R. Varndell for many years, I have

