

**ARRIVAL OF A YOUNG AFRICAN RHINOCEROS.**

LATE ON Tuesday evening Mr Arthur Thomson, the assistant superintendent, arrived at the Zoological Gardens with a small African rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros bicornis*) and two Grant's zebras (*Equus granti*), which he had brought up from Dover, where the animals had been landed from the German s.s. *Präsident*. The lorry was driven into the upper yard, where the zebras, which will probably stay there for some time, were unloaded. It was then taken to the western gate of the elephant paddock, and the rhinoceros, still in its travelling case, was deposited in the house. Owing to the small size of the animal alterations had to be made in the front of the stall, to prevent the rhinoceros from finding its way out by squeezing between the massive uprights. A wooden framework has been erected, fitted with stout horizontal bars, so that there was no possibility of the animal getting out when it was released from its travelling cage. By a curious coincidence the stall selected for this small rhinoceros is that occupied for years by Jim, the Indian rhinoceros, probably the largest ever seen in captivity, which died in December, 1901 (*Field*, Dec. 10, 1901, p. 1031).

The new arrival is a female, very tame, and in good condition, apparently about twelve months old, smaller than the Indian species in the Prince of Wales's collection, and very much smaller than the only other African rhinoceros possessed by the society. That, on its arrival in 1868, measured 3ft. 6in. at the shoulder, while the newcomer falls short of 3ft. There is also considerable difference in the development of the horns, the posterior horn in the present example being only just discernible. The rhinoceros that came in 1868 had a second horn, which, to judge from Mr Wood's illustration in the *Field* (Sept. 19, 1868, p. 232), must have been at least a couple of inches long. That animal lived for nearly twenty-two years in the menagerie, and died of cancer in the stomach in April, 1890. The society now possesses two specimens of the Indian rhinoceros (*R. unicornis*), one Sumatran rhinoceros (*R. sumatrensis*), and one African rhinoceros (*R. bicornis*). It would be exceedingly interesting if this last-named animal and the Indian example presented by the Prince of Wales could be exhibited in the same inclosure; and young animals are more attractive to the general public than adults, unless these be of more than ordinary size.

**FOUR-HORNED PIEBALD SHEEP.**

SIR,—In your issue of July 7 R. L. writes: "The occurrence of four-horned sheep in St. Kilda and Uist is well known." As the owner of St. Kilda I write to say that what are known as the St. Kilda sheep do not have four horns. The error is, I know, a

**NOTES AND QUERIES ON NATURAL HISTORY.**

**SISKIN NESTING IN CO. KERRY.**—I am glad to be able to report once more the breeding of the siskin in co. Kerry. I found a fully fledged young bird in the drive here on July 8, which seemed to have injured its head, possibly in attempting its first flight.—L. CREAGHE CREAGHE-HAWARD (Caragh Lake, Co. Kerry).

**THE RANGE OF THE TIGER.**—Why should it be considered that the tiger is a recent immigrant into sub-tropical regions? It is found in Java and Sumatra, where it must presumably have taken up its abode before the separation of those islands from the mainland. There is no apparent reason, therefore, why its arrival in India should not date from an equally remote period.—R. G. BURTON, Major.

**STARLING BREEDING IN CO. KERRY.**—It is, I believe usually stated that the starling does not breed in this county, and although I have heard reports of its doing so, I have not hitherto been able to see the nest or establish the fact. Now, however, on the reliable authority of my friend Mr R. Chute, of Bally McEllcott, I am enabled to state that several pairs of starlings are nesting at Bally McEllcott, and that one pair at least have built there in previous years.—L. CREAGHE CREAGHE-HAWARD.

**BADGERS AND SITTING PHEASANTS.**—In Herefordshire, some five or six miles west of Hereford, where badgers are very numerous, great damage is done to sitting pheasants, partridges, and fowls. This can be proved to be the work of badgers, e.g., where fowls with chickens in coops protected by strong rabbit wire have been killed, the wire rooted up, and the coops overturned. This is not done by foxes, which are always very shy of rabbit wire; besides, there is no mistaking the badger's footprint.—R. A. SWAYNE (Tarrington House, near Hereford).

**SQUIRREL EATING FUNGUS.**—In connection with some remarks in a recent issue of the *Field* on the subject of the squirrel's fondness for fungi and cleverness in finding truffles, it may be of interest to mention that a day or two ago, observing a squirrel bounding along a path with something large in its mouth I frightened the animal so as to cause it to drop what proved to be an edible boletus, measuring 5in. in diameter and one third of a pound in weight. I had known that cows will eat mushrooms and rabbits will gnaw many kinds of fungus, but was surprised to find the squirrel carrying in its mouth one as large as itself.—T. K. HUDSON (The Dell, near Cowes).

**PELICAN PERCHING ON IRON BAR.**—Although it is well known that some species of the genus *Pelicanus* do perch, it is not often one has the opportunity of seeing a bird in that position in England. The late Mr Osbert Salvin said it was a bold pelican that first perched upon a tree, since a bird less adapted for such a

give each other warning of the attack when she dashed past, not more than three yards above us, returning to the perch a second time from the opposite direction. We had a stick or stone within reach, the hillside being covered with "bent" from top to bottom. We therefore, the better to repel the attack, lay on our backs, holding our feet in the air. After the second onslaught the bird soared away and we were left in peace, but only for a few minutes, when she came at us again and swooped past us, near to us as before. We whistled and shouted and tried in every way to frighten her, but she came a fourth time and then soared away out of sight. We therefore resumed our walk, having our backs to the sun, which was shining brightly. In ten or fifteen minutes we were again startled by a swoosh and by an approaching shadow, and she dashed past us for the fifth time. This time, and indeed on every subsequent occasion she swooped on to us, she always kept herself between us and the sun. When we reached the summit of the mountain, where is a large cairn, she soared away to the south and we saw her no more. Our experience hitherto has been that the buzzard is an exceedingly shy bird and carefully avoids human beings. There can be no doubt it was the common buzzard, from its cry, the shape of its wings, its head and beak, its brown back, and cream-coloured breast with brown spots. There were no crags near, and it is unlikely there would be young so late as July 8, for incubation takes place about the first week in May. Can any of your readers offer an explanation?—ERIC GREENWOOD (Oxenhope, near Keighley, Yorks).

**Taming Elephants in the Congo State.**—Some interesting details are published in the *Tribune Congolaise* of the elephant training establishment at Api, in the Congo State. At the end of 1905 thirteen had been brought in, but this number was more than doubled before the end of March, when the total was twenty-eight elephants. The capture of some of the latest acquired was effected by means of the young elephants in captivity, whose presence conciliated those in a wild state. The training operations have produced encouraging results. In February the elephants were employed in transporting the bricks required for building purposes. Every day five elephants carried three times from the brick kiln to the houses under construction half a hundredweight of bricks apiece. One of the elephants was employed in dragging a small cart, but it was found that some of them objected to this kind of work. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in finding a suitable saddle, especially for the younger animals, which are much higher in front than behind. At night some of the elephants enter stables of their own accord; others, notwithstanding the temptation of fodder remain outside in the large shed, or even walk about