

by having the same as the other. Doubtless there is a good field for the original observation in the habits and species of the Indian crocodiles.

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### RHINOCEROS HORN TOPPLING FORWARD, &c.

SIR,—Visitors to the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, are likely to have remarked how very much the long single horn of the old female *Rhinoceros indicus* inclines forward, as a consequence of its own weight and of the attachment of it merely to the skin, so that it is movable to a considerable extent. This circumstance is at once suggestive of the idea entertained by the South African traveller Chapman and others, that the alleged *Rhinoceros Oswellii* is no other than an old and very long-horned example of *R. simus*, with its anterior horn inclining forward in like manner. I shall not be greatly surprised if, in one of her moods of violence, the female rhinoceros at the Gardens detaches her horn from the skin, as happened three or four years ago with an animal of the same species at Moscow, the horn of which is now preserved in the museum of that city, while the creature has developed another horn in its place. That the horn of a rhinoceros, which consists merely of agglutinated hair, is liable to be occasionally thus shed (or rather knocked off), occurred to me many years ago on my obtaining the facial portion of the skull, with the skin and two horns attached to it, of an old male of *R. sumatranus*. From the small size of its horns, I at first supposed the animal to have been adolescent; but, upon maceration of the specimen and removal of the skin, it was at once perceived, from the complete ankylosis of the facial bones, that the animal must have been considerably aged, and the idea at once occurred to me that its first horns must have been cast or shed, and that others had been developed in their places. If the forehead be examined of the old female rhinoceros in the Regent's Park, it will be perceived that there is a considerable excrescence in the centre of it, which is no other than a diminutive horn; and this illustrates the rudimentary third horn which has occasionally been observed in different two-horned species of the genus, inclusive of the Asiatic *R. sumatranus*. The anterior horn of the last-named species occasionally attains an extraordinary length and high amount of regular curvature backward, and such an example of it in the British Museum was formerly considered by Dr Gray to denote a peculiar species, which he named *R. Crossii*; but I have seen the horns of the same species upon the head, sufficiently developed in like manner to show at a glance that the alleged *R. Crossii* must be put down as a synonym of *R. sumatranus*. I learn from Professor Schlegel that *R. sumatranus* inhabits Borneo as well as Sumatra, and it is likewise generally diffused over the Indo-Chinese countries and Malayan peninsula, as is also the lesser single-horned *R. sondaicus*, i.e. that formerly supposed to be peculiar to Java; whereas the great *R. indicus* seems to be confined to the base of the eastern Himalaya, inclusive of the valley of the Bráhmáputra and the hills immediately southward of that valley, where the three Asiatic species would appear to meet. I once received satisfactory information of the two-horned *R. sumatranus* having been killed in Assam, where considered an extreme rarity; but I have been quite unable to obtain authentic information of *R. indicus* having been observed in any province of British Burma, where *R. sondaicus* has been repeatedly mistaken for it, as likewise in the Bengal Sundarbáns.

ZOOPIHILUS.

### ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

ADDITIONS TO THE MENAGERIE, REGENT'S-PARK, FROM AUG. 22 TO 23.