

## A Rhinoceros Shot C. L. BOYLE.

Category: Letters to the Editor

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### A RHINOCEROS SHOT

Sir.—The report of a shooting of the Great Indian Rhinoceros in Nepal by the Foreign Secretary will cause dismay among all those interested in the preservation of rare animals. This rhinoceros now exists

only in India, where about 400 still live under complete protection, mostly in the Kaziranga reserve, Assam, and in the Rapti valley, Nepal.

Its status in Nepal has been so uncertain that in 1959 the Survival Service Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, supported by the Fauna Preservation Society, the Bombay Natural History Society and interested Americans, sent Mr. E. P. Gee, an acknowledged expert from Assam, to make an investigation and to suggest measures necessary to preserve this rhinoceros. As a result of Mr. Gee's report we believe that about 300 rhinoceroses still live in Nepal, and we know that its position there is insecure. The loss of a single animal is very regrettable, but even more important is the question of example.

The possibility also cannot be ignored that a catastrophe such as disease might reduce the population below likelihood of recovery, and the species is in fact fully entitled to the place it holds on the list of animals in danger of extermination throughout the world.

The report states that the shot rhinoceros was a female accompanied by her young one; if this is true, no further comment is necessary. Yours faithfully,

C. L. BOYLE, Secretary, The Fauna  
Preservation Society.

Care of Zoological Society of London,  
Regent's Park, N.W.1, March 2.