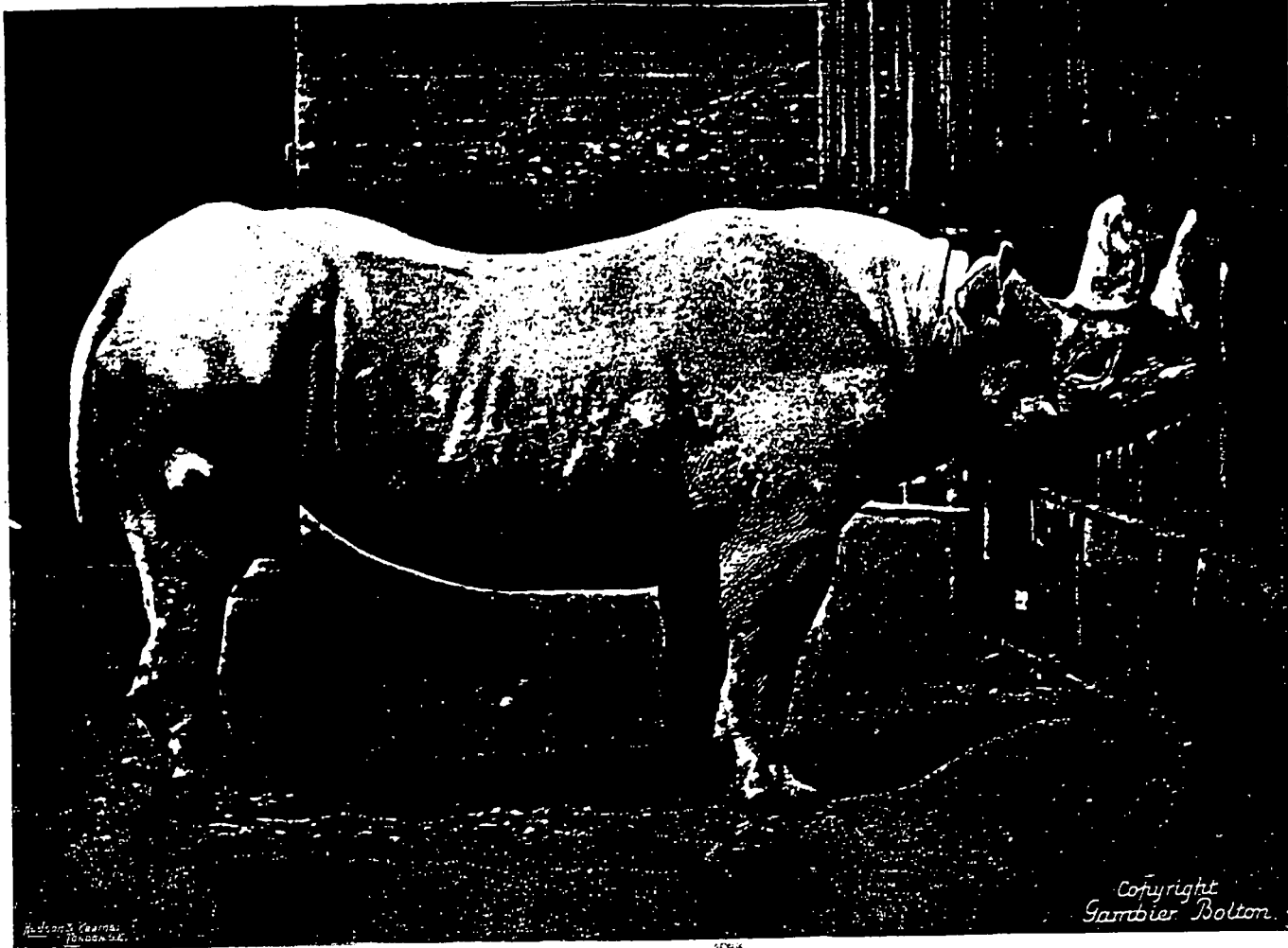


THE GREAT ONE-HORNED INDIAN RHINOCEROS.

THESE huge unwieldy creatures are covered with such a massive armour-plated hide that if it were not arranged in convenient folds it would be next to impossible for them to turn round, and yet this is very far from being bullet proof, for so long as the Rhinoceros is alive the hide is quite soft, and can be cut through with a sharp knife; but when the animal is dead and the hide dried it is extremely hard and tough. These animals are the inveterate enemies of the Asiatic Elephant, attacking them at every favourable opportunity, and ripping them up without mercy; and at one time fights between

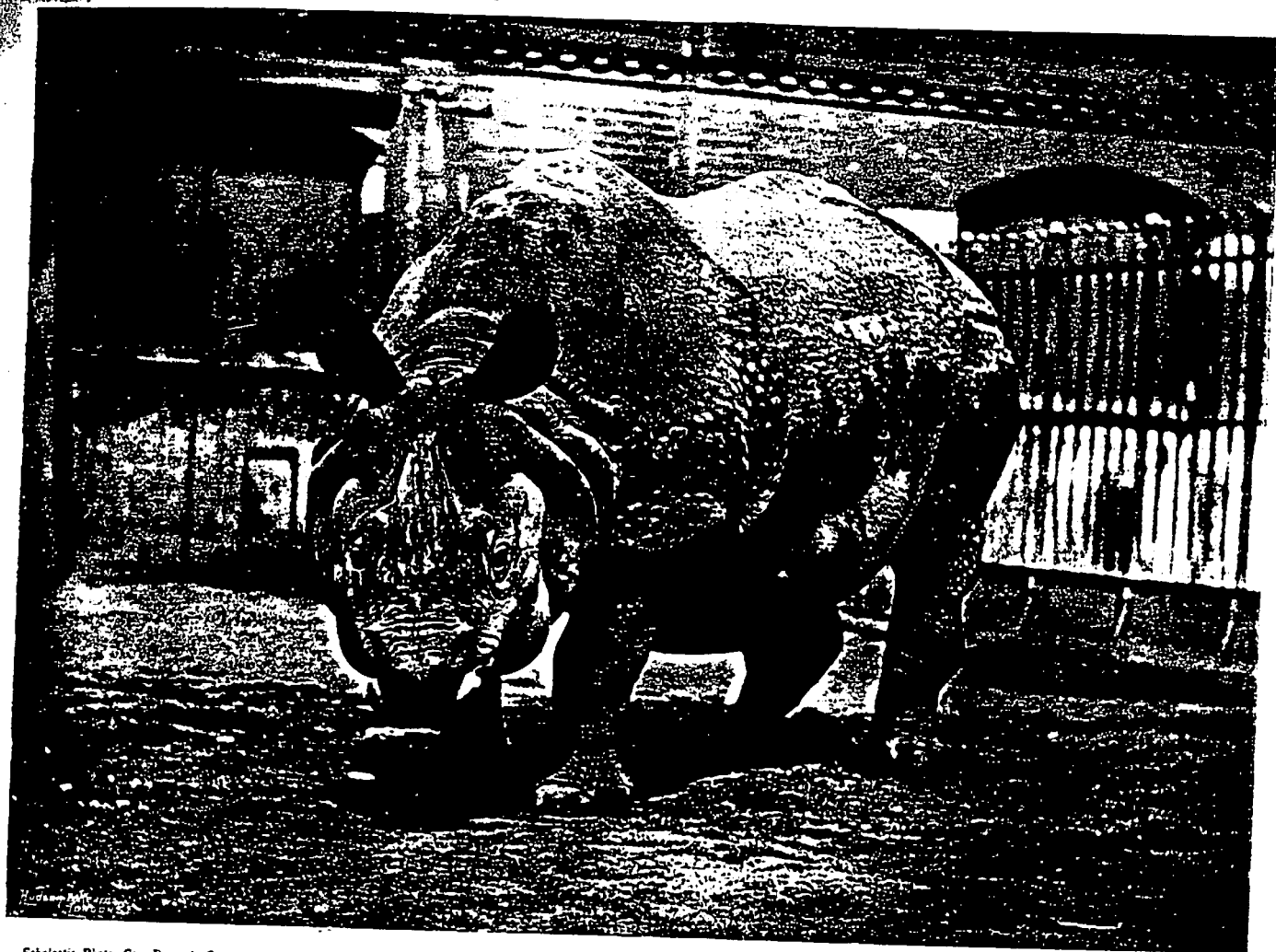
Elephants and Rhinoceroses were quite a favourite form of sport with the Princes of India, many of the pits in which these combats took place remaining to this day. If the horn from a dead specimen be examined in any of our Museums, it will be seen that it consists of myriads of hairs or fibres massed together, and is quite independent of the skull, a sharp knife passed round the roots of the horn soon causing it to drop off. This Rhinoceros was presented to the Society in 1864, and is doing well after his thirty-two years' residence in London.



THE AFRICAN BLACK RHINOCEROS.

THE colour of this animal is very far from being black, for it is a dirty brown, and the name is only given to it to distinguish it from its enormous relative the Burchell's, or white Rhinoceros, an animal which has never yet been seen alive in captivity, and, as it is now nearly extinct, most probably never will be. This specimen was captured in Upper Nubia in 1868, and lived in London until 1891, the Zoological Society having, so it is reported, paid no less than £1,000 for him on his arrival in Europe, when he was only the size of a

large pig, for he was the first specimen to reach Europe alive since the days of the Romans. These animals have been shot in South and East Africa with front horns measuring forty inches in length, whilst Sir J. Willoughby is said to have killed one having a very small third horn behind the other two. Whilst the black Rhinoceros stands about five feet high at the shoulder, and measures about eleven feet long, the white variety is much larger, standing six and a-half feet at the shoulder, and measuring over fourteen feet in length.



Scholastic Photo. Co., Person's Green.

WAITING FOR BREAKFAST. (*Indian Rhinoceros.*)

NEARLY all animals kept as domesticated, or in captivity, learn some kind of language, of signs or sounds, to express their wants. This is because they are entirely dependent on man for food, and so cannot go off and help themselves when hungry. Wild dogs are almost mute. Tame dogs are noisy, barking or howling to show when they desire amusement or that they dislike being shut up, or are hungry, or neglected. Tame cattle are far more noisy than wild ones, as they have learnt that by "making a fuss" they are attended to. In captivity,

hunger, or *enmity* causes the most unlikely animals to form some simple sign language. The bears stand up and open their mouths; the wild sheep and goats walk on their hind legs, or stand up against the palings, and the elephants salaam, open their mouths, or simply "beg" with outstretched trunk. The keepers say that the Indian rhinoceroses have learnt to stand open-mouthed, and so beg for food, from seeing that their neighbours the elephants do the same, and so get contributions from the public. The elephants have "educated" them.