THE GAME

OF

BRITISH EAST AFRICA

BY

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With the less-known languages of the African continent many already have vocabularies, but these vocabularies are generally very weak in words for animals. It thus happens that, even in these, to obtain such words the traveller and sportsman must trust to his own researches. Where there are good dictionaries, however, I see no excuse for the writer of a book on game or travels giving his own incorrect versions of words and sentences for the benefit of a confiding public. If he has good grounds for believing the accepted dictionary word is wrong he should verify it carefully before departing from it.

I could name many books in which the writers, evidently profoundly ignorant of the language they speak of, have endeavoured to put down their versions of different words and sentences. In each of the cases referred to, if they had copied the words they required out of a dictionary they would have saved themselves trouble and their readers mystification.

In recording matters connected with game here I hope to record only as facts such things as are matters of conviction, not of opinion. An opinion may be formed from two or three instances, but a conviction is an opinion confirmed.

When the evidence does not appear to be overwhelming I have always tried to qualify my remarks by such words as "perhaps," "possibly," or "I imagine" so and so. Even as such, convictions are liable to be modified very often in the light of subsequent experience.

There are many things which I have read about game that I am unable to reconcile with my own observations. Some of these things are recorded by so many different observers that it would be foolish to pretend that they are in error. Others appear to be mistakes made by some former writer and taken for granted and repeated by subsequent writers.

To quote a few of these :—

Several writers have observed, talking of countries known to me, that it is the invariable rule for rhino to return to their droppings half an hour or so after depositing them and to toss them with their horns. These same writers make no mention of his scratching over them with his hind-legs. I cannot agree that anything is the invariable rule of any animal, or that in this case that it is even the general rule.

Now, I have observed a rhino performing this function many times, and on most occasions he has immediately afterwards executed a back shuffle with his hind legs, just as a dog often scratches after this operation. This has generally been sufficient to break up the droppings or part of them.

Furthermore, I have seen the distinct marks of this scratching performance, I would not like to say whether hundreds of times or thousands. At any rate, I have

often seen from ten to twenty of these rhino retiring-places bearing fresh signs of these scratching marks, in the course of a single day.

Now, it strikes me as very odd that anyone writing with such certainty as to the rhino's movements half an hour after this operation should omit any mention of what he actually does during this operation. That he occasionally tosses his dung, too, I am not prepared to deny, but that this is his invariable performance I cannot agree.

Again, I have often seen it stated, talking of the plain-dwelling lion, that he never roars before hunting, but only after he has fed. This would seem at first sight the most natural thing to do, as it would be supposed that he would frighten game and so warn them if he roared first. However, this again is absolutely contrary to my observations.

I often wonder if those who make the above statement have gone to the trouble of cutting out and examining carefully that wonderful apparatus in a lion's throat which produces his reverberating roars. I claim that Nature would never have troubled to endow him with such an organ for the useless purpose of roaring after he has fed.

Where he has been much shot at he naturally gets rather diffident about roaring much, and sometimes hardly roars at all. In places where he has not yet been molested, or where he has been shot at but little, he roars incessantly. I have been in places where lions can be heard roaring nightly directly dark sets in. Moreover, I have had the most direct evidence time and time again that he roars or grunts before and during hunting, in addition to roaring after feeding. Also that he roars when coming for stock. I do not say that he invariably does so, as that would undoubtedly be a misstatement. He roars or not, just as it suits his particular plan of action. In dealing with the lion later on, the uses to which he puts his roaring will be dealt with.*

Talking of the same lion, the lion of the plains, it is commonly stated that he should not be sought for where game is plentiful. That is to say that, if lion were lying up in a certain spot, there would be no game for some distance. Even the native will persist in saying this. Yet I have time after time found lion lying up right in the heart of game. The first *plain-dwelling* lions I ever saw were drinking during the day, and a herd of zebra were playing a game of bo-peep with them the while.

I have seen a herd of hartebeest following two belated lions at less than

* I have also had an article in the *Field* of February 22nd, 1908, on this subject.

two hundred yards' distance, and appearing most anxious to have a good look at them. Meanwhile, the lions looked most embarrassed and self-conscious as they slunk away.

When one is looking for lion lying up, the probability is that they have already fed, and so game is not just then afraid of them. Thus, they may be found in close proximity to game, or they may be far away, all depending on the spot they have chosen.

Again, one has read thrilling accounts of sportsmen stalking rhino, crawling and crouching after them as they would after any keen-sighted buck. I have also seen it stated that they have been *seen* and charged by rhino from something like two hundred yards distant. Now, I have never stalked a rhino in my life, and yet I have seldom had any difficulty in approaching within twenty to forty yards of one of these animals. If I could really believe that they would see me and come for me at two hundred yards, I would think more of rhino-shooting on the plains as a sport.

Where rhino have been much molested they are very jumpy and sometimes manage to become aware of the hunter's approach at long distances. Most hunters give the rhino birds the credit for imparting this information to their hosts. When approaching such a rhino I have often gone to the trouble of trying *to stalk the rhino birds*, generally with indifferent success. In most cases, however, wherever I have found the rhino at all unsophisticated, whether in bush or plain, and even if accompanied by birds, I have been able to walk up within at least fifty yards without his becoming alarmed. This is, of course, only provided that *the wind is right*. Many times when trekking with porters in country swarming with rhino have I found them in my direct path.

On many occasions have I had to induce rhino, very dense and slow at taking a hint, that they were not wanted. On such occasions the porters are generally told to wait behind. Then one goes forward to within one hundred or fifty yards of the animal, according to the presence of trees or otherwise and their suitability for climbing, and shouts and blows whistles at him. He pricks up his ears and turns his wrinkled face round, peering in every direction, and trying to locate the unwonted sound.

Again one shouts at him, and he is confirmed in his opinion that there is something there. He wheels round and round, trying to make up his mind in which direction to go. Again one shouts at him, and finally he blunders off, generally speaking, upwind. Sometimes he takes the hint quickly and sometimes slowly, but this is the general method of procedure.

On the treeless plain I have sometimes been trekking in places abounding with rhino. Here one has to make a detour to pass downwind of every rhino seen. When the rhino is some way downwind of the general direction and there are many scattered about, the constant trekking off the path becomes very boring and one is apt to cut down the distance at which to pass him.

Many times have I led a whole long caravan of porters past a rhino within two hundred yards upwind of us, only impressing on the porters to go silently.

Sometimes I have passed within one hundred yards, and other men have told me that they have done the same. I have never met with any misadventure in so doing, and generally the rhino has not taken the slightest notice of us *when the porters were perfectly silent*.

Very seldom, in places where the rhino has not been much molested, has he shown uneasiness, and then our presence was probably betrayed to him by the behaviour of the rhino birds.

This seems, to my mind, sufficient proof that the rhino is unable to see a long caravan of forty or fifty porters at one hundred yards' distance. It makes one inclined to doubt the stories one hears of his *seeing* and charging a single man at two hundred yards.

Sometimes it becomes expedient to try to cross upwind of a rhino at long distances, such as four hundred yards. This may be either to avoid a very long detour on a long march, or because there are several rhino about, and it is impossible to avoid them all. On such occasions the sportsman would post himself in a good position till the caravan had passed.

I consider it a toss-up which direction the rhino takes when he smells the caravan: he may come straight for the caravan, go straight away or off to a flank, or at any angle to these directions. When disturbed by any cause other than scent he will, as a rule, make off *upwind*.

The above will show why I consider that the shooting of two rhinos on one's licence can be performed with as little danger and considerably more ease than, the shooting of two hartebeest.

First, wait till you find a rhino in a suitable place with a few trees about. Then walk upwind to a tree about thirty yards from him, without any pretence at a stalk, rest your rifle against a tree, and shoot. If you fail to kill or disable him, and he comes your way, dodge behind a tree. In approaching him you may, it is true, give your wind to another you have not yet seen, but in stalking a hartebeest you might equally well give your wind to an unseen rhino.

I do not wish, however, to decry a gallant foe, so I must qualify my remarks by

saying that he is undoubtedly, on occasions, one of the most dangerous animals in Africa. First of all, on the plains, where you have not your convenient and climbable trees, directly you fire, if he is not killed, he will as likely as not come straight for the sound of the rifle.

In a rhino country one must be constantly on the alert. A fold of ground, bush, or anthill may conceal one of these formidable beasts.

If you pass upwind of him he may come straight for your wind. On the open plain he may even come "bald-headed" for you from a distance of five hundred yards *downwind*, as one has seen, but such cases are the exception. On such occasions, if you are alone, you can make a run across the wind with as much celerity as the country will permit.

If you can once make him lose your wind he is unlikely to pick it up again or cast for it, and he cannot pick you up by sight till he is within perhaps twenty-five or thirty yards of you.

If, on the other hand, you have a long tail of porters, loads are thrown down, your only bottle of whisky is broken, and other very boring breakages are apt to take place, while you have to see it out to restore confidence.

This latter is probably the most boring part of all, as you would much rather be up a tree beside the man who is carrying your ammunition, especially if you have already shot all you are entitled to. It is then that you will realise what a very difficult shot is a rhino coming straight towards you, his massive head protecting his heart, and his horns covering his brain. On such occasions if you can break a leg it will be of more use than placing a shot in the side of his body or head, as it will sufficiently impede his progress to permit of your skipping out of the way and finishing him at leisure from a flank.

However, where rhino are so very dangerous is in thick bush, grass, or thorn. Here you cannot possibly run or dodge, as the vegetation is so dense, and you cannot see him till he is on top of you. You may walk within a few yards of a family of them, lying down, without being aware of their presence. It is in such places as these that the many rhino accidents which take place chiefly happen.

This leads me to another point on which many people have totally different views, namely, as to rhino-charging and their motives.

Some say that a rhino charges at every possible opportunity, or that directly he notices you he comes for you. If he does not hit you off, that is only his bad aiming. Others try completely to whitewash his character, and say that he practically never charges in the real sense of the word. It is only his fun or a mistake, or that he took the wrong turning, but he is really trying to run away.

RHINO CHARGING.

That he made a mistake would seem a poor consolation if one was the victim of that mistake.

Between these extremes there are all sorts of reasons offered as explanations for his conduct.

My view is somewhat as follows :—

First of all, there are the many rhino you see, but which do not perceive you either by hearing or smell. These can be practically put out of the discussion. So a man walking about in an open rhino country and having his wits about him may see many rhino, and meanwhile himself be only in the slightest danger.

But rhino often suddenly make up their minds to run in a certain direction, apparently for no object, and as suddenly decide to stop still or to run off somewhere else. Thus even some of these might have the appearance of coming for you, or might run across the wind of a sportsman after he had taken every precaution.

Putting aside these, however, we have to deal with the rhino which have been made aware of your presence either by sound, smell, or possibly sight. These will, as a general rule, run away from you. About one out of five, however, will make as if he was coming for you. Of those which do this, the greater part will subsequently think better of it, and so after coming towards you for a short distance will swerve away and make off, or will pass you at a distance to either flank.

But about one out of five, again, of these will press straight on. Thus out of twenty-five rhino which have got your wind or in some way perceived you, we have, on an average, one pressing home an attack. He may be shot coming at you and he may be wounded. If he is wounded it will probably alter his frame of mind according to the gravity or otherwise of the wound he has received and his individual temperament. He may also just miss you and then decide to go straight on without turning. Possibly, he never really intended to hit you off.

If rhinos were left alone and not fired at, I believe the greater number would be found to make a blind charge.

That is to say, they would come straight for your wind and, if they did not actually run up against something or someone, they would then rush straight through and off the other side, still going upwind. If one met anything directly in his way he would toss it. The chances are, however, that he would just miss you by a few yards and go straight on. When you came into his range of vision he might also not like the look of you and swerve so as to pass you.

Out of these rhino who press home an attack I take it that, say, one in ten, again, are really bad rhino and mean to do harm. Instead of passing by at a few

yards, they will, directly you come into view, whip round on you with surprising agility, and they really mean business.

So we get out of every two hundred and fifty rhino about one which is a really bad rhino and which will, if he gets your wind, without any act of aggression on your part, try his best to do some damage.

I do not claim any special value for my statistics, but I do claim that these calculations should be on these lines, rather than the usual procedure of laying down general rules, to which it is expected that every rhino will conform, whether he is wounded or unwounded, or of whatever temperament he may be.

One man, who has seen, perhaps, half a dozen rhino in his life, says that on getting your wind they will always run away. Another, who has shot one, says that they always charge, but that the charge is blind and that they are unable to turn. Even men of considerable experience are often apt to try to lay down such hard-and-fast rules.

The only general rule, to the best of my belief, that can be said to apply to rhino, is that, if there are two rhino together, they will nearly always do exactly the same thing and go exactly the same way. The reason for this is that two together generally consist of a female and young. Even when male and female, however, they generally behave in exactly the same way.

To return, however, to our statistics above. Presuming that they are approximately or very roughly correct, let us make further deductions from them.

If we are in an open country the chances are that we will be able to walk about for a considerable time without betraying ourselves to any rhino, bad or otherwise. If, however, we are in a slightly wooded and bushed country, and are seeing at the rate of about ten or fifteen rhino a day (no uncommon quantity in some unvisited parts), the chances are that we are also passing close to another fifteen or so which we do not see.

Of these let us put half upwind and half downwind. That will leave an average of seven and a half per diem of unseen rhino getting one's wind. Thus, in such a country we have three false alarms every two days, a rhino pushing home to close quarters every three to four days, and a bad rhino about once a month,—sufficiently alarming experiences should you stop long in such a country.

In thick thorn or elephant grass it would be still more alarming.

Where, however, white men have been a good deal, the chances are that the proportion of bad and charging-home rhino has been considerably reduced, as they have rather put themselves in the way of extermination. On the other hand, there

might be wounded rhino about which would be feeling worse tempered than was their wont.

Men whose paths have only led them in pleasant places and in the usual shooting grounds of British East Africa might think that I have overstated facts. Those whose work or inclinations, however, have taken them much in *rhino-infested bush and thick country* will, many of them, on the contrary think that I have underestimated the facts.

One's views are largely influenced by the sort of country one habitually traverses. For instance, I have *heard* the mountain reedbuck generally spoken of as quite an uncommon animal in this country. I am sure, however, that any surveyor, interested in animal life, whose work takes him up numberless hills will bear me out that it is both widely distributed and fairly common.

Before leaving the rhino altogether I cannot resist a word on the usual method of dealing with the name together with that of his congener the hippo. I generally call them by these abbreviated forms, as they seem more friendly appellations. In talking of them the singular will stand equally well for the plural, and "rhino" and "hippo" can equally well be applied to a number. Even "rhinos" and "hippos" do not sound out of place.

As to their full names, however, about the only recollections I still have left to me of a so-called classical education are centred about these animals. Therefore, whilst all other derivations have long since left me, I still dimly recall that these are of Greek, and not Latin, origin. How, then, they can form their plurals as rhinoceri and hippopotami I fail to see. Yet in almost every book, pamphlet, article, or licence concerning game I take up, these two words are always recurring in the forms given above. It would appear to me as if rhino, rhinos, rhinoceros, rhinoceroses, rhinocerides, hippo, hippos, hippopotamus, hippopotamuses, hippopotamoides, would all be legitimate plurals when talking of them as game, but never rhinoceri or hippopotami.

In dealing with different animals in the Appendix, wherever my observations have differed from those of others, I have generally appended a few instances as examples. I have not multiplied examples, as such multiplication could serve no purpose other than that of boring the reader unnecessarily.

I hope to avoid "animal anecdotes" and "hunting exploits," concerning which there is always a glut of literature, but in the absence of these the reader is asked to believe that all conclusions are based on numerous incidents observed.

It is very difficult often, though, to arrive at correct conclusions as to the reasons which actuate any animal's behaviour. The human being is really so little in touch

with wild nature that he, as often as not, may assign quite wrong motives to its conduct. Here is an instance, purely hypothetical, of how different ideas may be gained from an observation of the same circumstance. When the grass is fired small birds collect round the spot and dart in and out of the flames. This we will suppose has been noticed by two observers, people of widely differing temperament, on several different occasions.

The first observer, a sentimentalist, might write :—

"As the all-devouring flames leapt forward, licking up the ground, a small bird rushed into their very midst. It was piteous to see this tiny fluttering mite, uttering the most forlorn and despairing cries, dash again and again into the flames, reckless of heat or smoke. It would seem as if she was bent on self-destruction from the way she braved the fiery tongues. What could it be that made this tender thing face the awful furnace? Only one thing would lead her to be so daring, a mother's love for her offspring. The lambent flames were enveloping and destroying her little nest, her home and young, while she, with heart-rending screams, was darting hither and thither powerless to save them."

The next observer might write :—

"As the flames crept forward they doubtless drove multitudinous insects from their retreats. Now was the time for insectivorous birds to gorge themselves to repletion off their defenceless prey. Even as we watched, a bird flew down, darting hither and thither, uttering discordant and jubilant screeches as it fell on its helpless victims. Nothing could equal the audacity of this rapacious bird as it flaunted itself before the flames and dived into their very midst, insatiable in its lust of killing."

The reader must please pardon these effusions, but they may explain, better than I could otherwise do, how temperament may affect the quality of observations. Granting this, a very considerable divergence in any two men's conclusions on the habits of game or any other wild animal is quite likely to occur, and is to a certain extent explainable.

CHAPTER II.

ANIMAL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA is, as everyone knows, that large block of British territory which lies astride of the equator on the east coast of Africa. Its boundaries are, roughly, Ethiopia and Somaliland to the north, Uganda to the west, German East Africa to the south-west, and the Indian Ocean to the south-east.

Of this country, the area of which is, roughly, about 200,000 square miles, less than half is administrated at present, while the remainder is still little known and much as it was before the British occupation. The administrated portion consists, roughly, of the south-western part and the coast line. In this part is a game reserve of about 10,000 square miles called the Southern Game Reserve. In the unadministrated portion are game reserves the areas of which are together about double the extent of the former. At first sight it might seem that the game reserves, consisting as they do of about a sixth of the whole country, occupy too extensive an area. This is by no means the case, however, for reasons that will be gone into in another chapter. Suffice it to say here that the smaller, or southern, reserve is the only thoroughly administrated reserve, for at present it is impossible to subject the northern reserves to any careful supervision.

The greater part of British East Africa is, or was, rich in game, of which there is a great variety. The completion of the Uganda Railway, which renders the country, or at any rate the south-western portions of it, so accessible to the tourist and sportsman, must eventually change this state of affairs. Moreover, large tracts of this country have been found suitable for colonisation. So, with the immense numbers of sportsmen who visit the country year by year and the settlers who pour into the country and take up unoccupied land in all directions, the fate of the game is as good as sealed. It must eventually become an alternative of settlers or game, and there is little doubt that the former will win the day.

Already large areas of the country which used to be full of game are now but poorly stocked. That wonderful sight of miles and miles of game, seen from the carriages of the Uganda Railway, is confining itself year by year more to the south-west side of the line, that of the game reserve. This is more marked with the

less common of the plain animals, such as rhino, eland, oryx callotis, and gnu, and it must be said that it is probably not entirely due to the thinning of the game by sportsmen.

Although most game in East Africa are very local in their habits, presumably many animals find it healthier to change their quarters from the north-east to the south-west or reserved side of the railway line.

Of other places becoming more and more denuded of game many instances could be quoted, but one will perhaps suffice. Sir Harry Johnston mentions, in his work on Uganda, the thousands of Grant's gazelle which kept the grass round Lake Naivasha cropped close as a lawn. Now, you will hardly see a head of this beautiful gazelle on the shores of the lake, and certainly you will not see a good head. If you take up a Land Office map of the district you will see that the whole of the shore round Lake Naivasha is cut up into little blocks and squares, denoting land allotted to various settlers. I do not wish to imply that the gazelle have all been shot, because it is more than likely that the greater part of them have moved elsewhere. Nor do I wish to decry the efforts of those pioneers who hope to make this country into a prosperous colony. It is only from the point of view of the animal-lover that it is so sad to feel the absence of game where once such enormous herds roamed. Nor, if the greater part of these missing animals have found their way into the southern reserve, is the case much better. For they can only serve to congest this sanctuary, giving it more animal life than it can well hold. In this case it were almost better if they had been shot, for overcrowding may result in disease sweeping off more animals than have been saved from the rifle.

Again, take up a Land Office map of the once wonderful Athi Plains, and you will see that these vast tracts are also *theoretically* divided up into the same little blocks and squares. It would appear at first sight that on all these huge plains there is not an acre on which the sportsman can shoot without being guilty of trespass. However, as yet it is not quite as bad as this. I said *theoretically* above, for, although nearly the whole of this area is private property, you may still walk many a mile without seeing a settler's fence or house. It seems that a greater part of this land has been taken up by people who have no intention of settling on their property or of doing anything to it. Apparently they are only waiting for an opportunity to sell at a profit. However, this state of things cannot exist much longer, for the Government, as soon as it gets breathing space, is sure to enforce intending settlers either to take up their land in a *boná-fide* manner or else return it to the State.

Although the congestion in the game reserve may be insignificant and hardly

apparent at present, when this large area bordering on it is finally and effectually occupied its condition may be very different. For then the greater part of the game from these huge plains will probably be forced back into the reserve, while possibly a similar state of affairs will occur on its opposite side, the German boundary.

There are other influences, too, at work to reduce the grazing grounds of the game besides the inpour of settlers. One is the increasing growth of the agricultural tribes under the benign influences of the British Government, for now that there are no wars to thin down their numbers they have increased greatly, and are able to put under cultivation a larger tract of land, undisturbed as they are by external or internal troubles. I speak more especially of the Kiuyu tribe, which occupies a large area of some of the most densely populated and thickly cultivated country in Africa. Now that they no longer live in fear of Masai raids from the south and west or of the hostility of the Kenya tribes to the east, and now that they no longer indulge in inter-tribal warfare, it seems as if their outward expansion could know no bounds. Moreover, they are also among the most prolific of African natives.

This dense mass of humanity is slowly spreading outwards like a slow-moving but all-devouring stream of lava. Forests are cut down, bush is cleared, and gradually every place it touches is converted into a treeless expanse of little, bare, red hills covered with beans, sweet potatoes, and other vegetables. So, what with game reserves, native cultivation, and the enormous tracts of land taken up by settlers, the intending sportsman of a few years hence will find very little vacant ground on which even to camp. Wherever he wishes to shoot he will find wire fences and notice-boards warning him of the consequences of trespass. Already in many parts it is overmuch like this. I am speaking of the healthier parts of the administrated portion of British East Africa. In the game reserves, unadministrated portions, and unhealthier parts of the coast and low country, however, it is hoped that the game will survive for many a long year to give pleasure to the nature-lover and he who likes to watch and study their habits.

A great part of the highlands is plain country. It consists of great, rolling, open, treeless plains stretching away as far as the eye can reach, covered with short grass. It is on these plains that the large herds of game are found. There is not the slightest difficulty in finding them, and, when disturbed, they merely move off a few hundred yards, so that the only quality requisite to kill such game is straight shooting and a little patience in approaching.

I came to this country direct from a place where it was necessary to work hard for nearly every animal brought to bag, where it must be sought for, tracked, and circumvented in bush or long grass, and where an animal, if once alarmed, puts

several hours of difficult country between itself and the hunter. After that kind of shooting, the usual shooting in this country, which consists of running about on an open plain after semi-tame animals, offers little or no attractions. However, to the mere trophy-hunter such country is a paradise, as, without the smallest knowledge of bushcraft, he can obtain a large bag in a brief time.

Apart from the plains, there is much of the country, little visited by the average sportsman, in which the hunter can even now practise his art undisturbed.

On the plains there is, indeed, much to see of the different animals and their habits. There is a fascination in the intimate way one may watch their doings, which is impossible to enjoy in the forest and bush. Here I am, quite a reformed character, the desire to hunt and slay being wholly allayed, except very occasionally when driven hard by the exigencies of the pot.

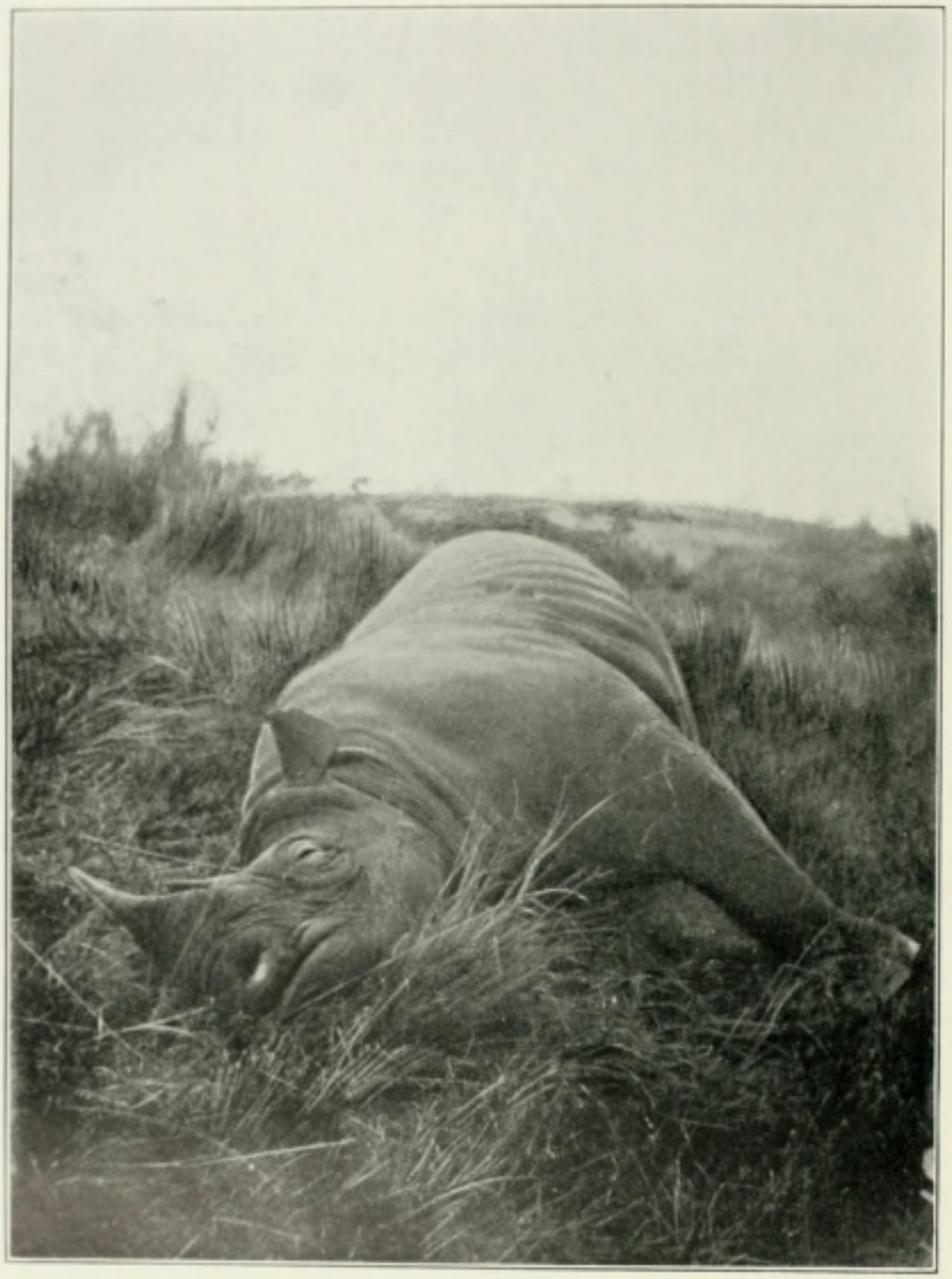
So of the plain I will talk as a spectator and as an open-air naturalist, not as a slaughterer. In the forest and bush, perhaps, I may be pardoned for occasionally forgetting to play the rôle of a disinterested observer and being enticed into the chase. For here are animals requiring all one's wits to circumvent and which have all the odds in favour of escape. Here also are trophies seldom bagged, and animals seldom studied or even seen.

If every sportsman returned from this country with a selection of forest and thick bush dwelling animals in his bag much more would doubtless be known concerning them. As it is, their lives have much of mystery about them. What is it that prompts one to interest oneself in such animals and to neglect the homely hartebeest? First and foremost, it is the science and difficulty of the chase which attracts, which are interests wholly absent on the plains. It is also the desire to get out of the common groove, to be away from the majority of mankind; and, again, it is prompted by the same feelings which, in Africa, make one move camp when one hears that there is another white man camping near.

The methods used in bagging game on the plain and in the bush are so very different that I shall distinguish them by the two words, "shooting" and "hunting." It is to be understood that shooting will be used for the plain, and hunting for the bush. The difference between these terms will be explained in a subsequent chapter.

Firstly, it may be as well to endeavour to show what are the chief influences at work affecting the characteristics of game. Secondly, what effect, if any, these influences have on the game of this country as compared with that of other parts of Africa.

It is well known that various influences cause the same species of animal in



RHINO.

different parts of the world to contract greatly differing habits. In many cases local or other causes, usually but imperfectly understood, are responsible for variations in colour, size, length of hair and horn, and other changes. These influences which tend to cause local variations are chiefly (i.) climatic; (ii.) pasturage and food supply; (iii.) kind of country; and (iv.) the habits of the other animals and human beings inhabiting such country.

It may be presumed that when a new species of animal gradually comes into existence its migrations are at first confined to such countries as are exactly similar to those in which it originated. Any spreading of the species into different kinds of country must be a slow process of gradually becoming accustomed to the altered state of living. To explain more clearly, I will suppose that the rhino in the highlands of East Africa is now passing through such a change. In East Africa the animal spends his time between plain and bush. In the plain he is easily brought to bag, as he can be seen from afar, and, owing to his defective eyesight, he can be approached to within a short distance and often be shot dead before he is aware of his danger. In the bush things are much more in his favour, as, it being impossible to locate him by sight, he has the chance of winding or hearing an adversary. Moreover, most people are rather careful to avoid him there, for one might easily approach within a few yards of him without being aware of his presence. Then a rapid charge, and the chances are in favour of the rhino bringing the hunter to bag. The animal's weight also gives him a great advantage over his pursuer in the bush, for he can crash rapidly through the thickest of bush and thus put a mass of difficult country between himself and the hunter. Following in his footsteps is no easy matter, as the stiff thorn branches which he has pushed aside so easily spring back into their old positions across his track and bar the way.

Again, if he has been disturbed by wind the chances are that he will make off downwind, and so you must either follow in his wake, with the certainty of giving him your wind again as soon as you get near him, or attempt to make a detour through previously unbroken bush and chance hitting him off.

Now, in process of time, if the rhino is spared long enough to effect the change, he should become, in this country, a pure bush animal, shunning the open plains entirely. His pursuit will then be more or less akin to that of the Central African rhino.

It cannot be expected that such a change could be effected at once; it would be a long process.

The rhino is dependent on certain grasses and foods which he gets from the

plains, and which are probably as necessary to his diet as are the thorns of the bush. In Central Africa he can get his grass diet under cover of the tall rank grasses, which conceal him as effectively as does the bush, and this allows him to move freely in any direction, his weight being sufficient to permit of his easily forcing a passage, while it offers to the sportsman a very serious obstacle.

There should therefore be two processes at work to change the plain-wandering habits of the East African rhino. The first is, that the rhinos which visit the plains least are those which, in the long run, will not suffer so much at the hands of the sportsman. Thus, of the survivors there will be always a greater proportion left of those which prefer the bush, and as it is the survivors which will propagate their species, the offspring in their turn will be, as time goes on, more and more of the bush-loving type. Again, the most frequent of these latter that visit the plains will again pay toll to the sportsman, and those then left will be still more of the bush-dwelling type.

The second process at work should be the natural intelligence of the rhino, if, indeed, he possesses such a quality. He should learn by experience that there is danger awaiting him in the plains, and so curtail his visits there to the utmost of his powers. Thus, in time these animals may accustom themselves to do entirely without the food of the plains which now appears to form a considerable part of their diet, and adapt themselves to a pure bush diet. The above is, of course, a hypothetical case to illustrate the changes that are always in progress with animals, tending to accustom them to new environments, food, and habits.

The probable solution in the case quoted will be that the present plain-dwelling rhino will either be exterminated before he has accomplished any change so lengthy, or he will learn to visit the plains by night alone, and then only in close proximity to the bush.

In the Athi Plains, with the exception of that portion allotted to the reserve, and in the Rift valley, the rhino is now practically non-extant, although once plentiful. In plains farther afield he still roams, but the sportsman will soon follow him there and make it impossible for him to exist as he does now. Fortunately a large portion of the country is thick bush and grass intermingled, so the rhino inhabiting such strongholds will defy the sportsman for many years to come, for he can there get all the grass he wants under cover of the bush.

Apart from the persecution by human beings, natural changes are ever at work, to which some animals find it impossible to conform and so have to give way before them. Such a one might be an alteration in the character of the vegetation of, comparatively speaking, so rapid a nature that the game had not time to adapt

themselves to it. It would then become necessary for them to gradually quit a country they once inhabited. Another of these natural changes might be the springing-up and outward expansion of a new species, more able and better fitted to sustain life in the country, and before which the older inhabitants would have to give way.

When conditions such as these arise, a barrier is often put across, separating the area of the former distribution of the species into two or more parts, and it is conditions like these which account for the finding of a small isolated detachment of some species far removed from the country inhabited by the bulk of its own kind. An instance of this is found with the sassaby. The main country inhabited by this species is to the south of the Zambezi River. Passing northwards it is not again met with till away up by Lake Bangweolo, in which locality is found a small isolated settlement.

One can hardly credit this animal with a parallel case to the Angoni Zulus. That is, that, having suffered from internal strife and determined to endure no longer the tyranny of their paramount chief, a number broke off from the main body and took a long trek up to another country. The only feasible explanation to offer is that at one time there were sassaby distributed over the whole of the intervening country from Lake Bangweolo to the Zambezi, till something occurred to drive them away from the large intermediate tract. As the sassaby is a plain-loving animal, a reasonable theory to offer is that there were tracts of open plain at one time more or less connecting their present habitats. It must then have been the thick bush, which now covers this country, gradually spreading over the land that made it uninhabitable to these animals. At last the only retreats left were those great, open flats to the south of Bangweolo, and which are the only large, open spaces in the country.

Another explanation, but perhaps a less likely one, is that the coming of the Lichtenstein's hartebeest, an animal more suited to the intervening country, was the cause of the retirement of the sassaby.

There are similar cases of this broken distribution of species in British East Africa. One of these is that of the topi, an animal closely allied to the sassaby, and of very similar habits. He is found plentifully in the plains of Yubaland and the open country near the coast in Tanaland. Passing westwards from there he is not again met with till after the Rift valley is crossed and the shores of Lake Victoria are approached.

It is true that he is screened off by dense bush which almost encircles his Tanaland and Yubaland habitats, but west of this bush many plains are met with that might have supported him. These are probably at too great an altitude or else deficient in some particular shrubs, and so do not suffice for his needs.

Another example of this broken distribution is that of the roan, found in small numbers near the Ithanga Hills and north-east of the Athi Plains. He next occurs on the Guas Ngishu at the other side of the Rift valley, and also plentifully on the German border. Between these spots, as far as I am aware, he is unknown.

Now as to the special causes, natural or otherwise, influencing the game of East Africa.

I have said that such causes are chiefly :—

(i.) Climatic; (ii.) pasturage and food supply; (iii.) kind of country; and (iv.) the habits of other animals and mankind. I will take these in order.

(i.) *Climatic Conditions.*

Climatic conditions may affect an animal indirectly in many ways, most of which are probably but imperfectly understood. The direct effects of heat and cold are often, however, obvious, especially in the manner in which they affect hair in mammals and feathers in birds. As a general rule, animals inhabiting a tropical country are brilliantly coloured, while those of a temperate country are clad in more sombre hues. At the equator there is a broad band of tropical vegetation running round the globe. In this band the vegetation is rich and luxuriant, and there is a wealth of animal and bird life. It is in this equatorial belt that animal life and birds especially are found of such gorgeous colours. In Africa this belt contains the forest lands of East Africa, Uganda, and the Ituri and Congo forests. The corresponding tropical belt in the American continents is Central America and the richly luxuriant regions of the Amazons.

North and south of the tropical equatorial band are intermittent belts of desert and barren countries, where there is but a paucity of animal life, usually of more sombre coloration, as befits the habitat. In Africa these desert regions comprise, amongst others, the Haud, Nubian, and Sahara deserts to the north, and the Kalahari to the south. The Rob al Khali of Arabia, the desert regions of India and China, and the salt lakes of Utah are amongst those that complete the northern belt; while to the south are the desert regions of Patagonia and Australia. Again, north and south of this necklace of deserts are found the semi-tropical and temperate belts. This is the general arrangement of the surface of the globe, though subject to local variations.

In addition to the effect of climate on the coloration of animals, the direct effect of cold is usually to increase the growth of hair. This is generally, but not always, the case.

It appears that animals of the same species which inhabit both hot and cold

There would be no amusement to the chess-player to come up to the board and find the pieces so arranged that he could at once checkmate, and in the same way it gives the hunter little pleasure to walk out and find an animal waiting for his shooting.

In such a case the animal would not have had its sporting chance. If it was a much-coveted head the sportsman might shoot it, but he could not return and pat himself on the back for his skill.

The exercising of the bushcraft so necessary to be successful as a hunter is the enchanting part of hunting. It is a match between man and animal, each having to use all his wits and keep for ever on the alert. How different is the ordinary plain-shooting, where, if the animal is only fool enough to stand until you get near enough, you may bag him.

"If all the pleasure is in the tracking and stalking," the humane reader will remark, "why shoot the animal at all?"

That I do not know. I have spent many interesting days in following tracks when I have had no intention of shooting and even when there has been no chance of coming up with the animal followed. At such times one just takes notes of the animal's habits and ways.

However, if one always spent long days following up animals and, after infinite trouble, came up with them and then just turned round and walked home again, there would seem to be something lacking. The fitting climax to the day's work would not have been reached; there would be nothing tangible to show for the pains endured. If one could hunt and stalk for a camera shot that would be a different matter. Such a proceeding is unfortunately seldom possible in the bush, unless the time at one's disposal is practically unlimited. There is hardly ever visible more than a small portion of a wary bush animal at any time, the bulk of its body being always concealed by bush even when one is quite close. It almost invariably, too, is in shadow, and thus but rarely is depicted in a photograph. Moreover, in most cases it would be necessary to snapshot it as quickly with the camera as one does with a rifle, for the animal must be approached very closely to be seen well, and at such close quarters part, at least, of the hunter must be visible to the animal. The slightest movement made then at this close range is almost certain to betray his presence and so send the animal off in a flash. Again, even where the bush is more open, there is the inferiority of range of the camera as compared with that of the rifle, and always the shadow of bush and forest to contend with, for the denizens of the bush seldom let the sunlight play upon them.

One's knowledge of the appearance of the bushfolk is generally confined to the

fleeting glimpse of a head or leg disappearing behind a tree, or of something indistinct, moving behind a bush, or perhaps a dark object which might be game or might be anything else. For this reason, when one has not yet shot some particular kind of animal, there is always a strong desire to shoot one, so as to be able to see what it is really like in the flesh. With the plain-dwellers a good pair of glasses suffices for this, but in the bush it is different.

However, to return to our reasons for wishing to shoot at all; there is one more I can put forward, and that is the fad for collecting heads, sometimes with the idea of comparing them, and at other times with the idea of using them as decorations. As the latter they serve for mementoes of many a pleasant day spent in the open air. The whole idea of displaying trophies of one's own shooting is, perhaps, a little bombastic, but it is this human weakness which is one of the chief reasons for indulging in shooting. This weakness for amassing a quantity of trophies may be best gratified on the plains, for on them roam numerous different kinds of animals, most of which are only waiting to be killed. Of these the trophy hunter can shoot with ease as many as his licence permits. The trophies from the bush and forest, however, are, as a rule, more striking.

On the plains the usual animals found are :—

Rhino.	Hartebeest, Neumann's.	Steinbuck.
Giraffe.	Topi.	Oribi.
Eland.	Thomas's cob.	Lion.
Gnu.	Gazelle, Grant's.	Cheetah.
Oryx beisa.	Gazelle, Peter's.	Serval.
Roan.	Gazelle, Waller's.	Hunting-dog.
Waterbuck.	Gazelle, Thomson's.	Zebra.
Hartebeest, Coke's.	Impala.	Warthog.
Hartebeest, Jackson's.	Reedbuck.	Ostrich.

In the bush the usual kinds of game are :—

Elephant.	Greater kudu.	Suni.
Rhino.	Lesser kudu.	Dikdik.
Giraffe.	Bushbuck.	Lion.
Buffalo.	Waterbuck.	Leopard.
Oryx beisa.	Impala.	Hunting-dog.
Oryx callotis.	Waller's gazelle.	Serval.
Sable.	Duiker.	Bushpig.

In the forest are met with :—

Elephant.	Duiker.	Forest-hog.
Bongo.	Leopard.	Colobus.
Bushbuck.		

It is not easy to draw a hard-and-fast line as to the habitat of most animals, as

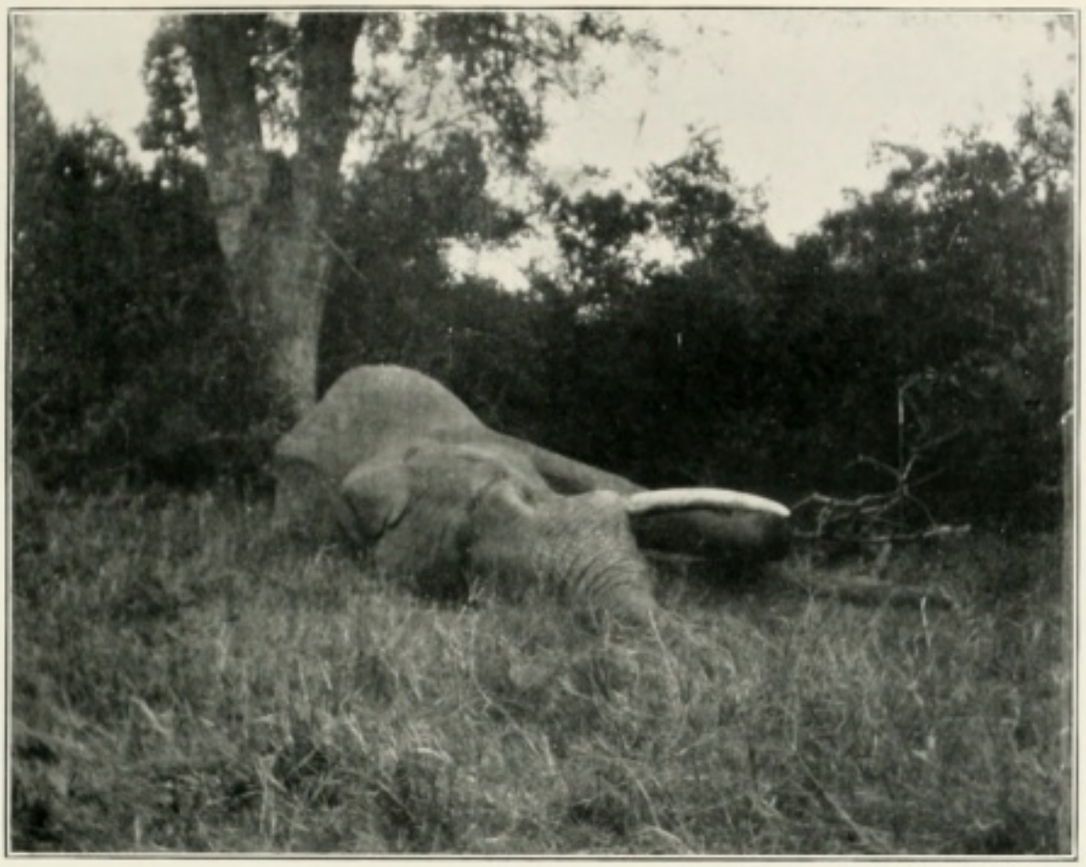


Photo by G. R. Stone.

ELEPHANT.

RHINO ♀ WITH BROKEN HORN.

Although the highlands have been left far behind, the heat is not oppressive here, for a cool breeze sails up the broad expanse of waters, and the trees behind give grateful shade to the little camp. The sound of the blowing and puffing of hippos from somewhere downstream reaches your ears, and in the river just below camp is a little sandbank scattered with the fresh remains of one of these great beasts. The rusty head of a native's barbed arrow tells the tale of its death. The sun sinks and its fierce glare gives place to the bright, mellow light of a full moon. The hippos commence grunting with delight at the prospect of their excursion inland, and soon with a loud splashing and much noise they wade ashore. Then all is silent again except for the occasional splash of a fish or the crack of a branch, but if you were amongst the hippos you would hear the comfortable sound of their steady munch, munch.

Then comes a splash and a swirl from the opposite bank, followed by another and another; some animals are evidently taking to the water, and the nature of their splashes proclaims them to be tailed monsters. An egret or some other white river-bird sails silently up the river, and hovers over the sandbank before alighting in the shallow water at its edge. There it stands silent and expectant, for about this bank must be many fish attracted by the smell of the departed river-horse. Suddenly it starts forward and sails away upstream and out of sight, scared by a movement in the water close to the sandbank, and presently a long form, followed by others, glides up out of the water and on to the spit of sand. The sight of these constrains you to break the peace of the African night with a loud rifle report, and one of the forms throws itself high into the air and then falls back into the shallow water writhing in death struggles. The rest scuttle into the water with undignified haste, and when their swirlings and splashings have ceased, silence once more reigns supreme.

For the crocodile I have neither sympathy nor mercy, as it is an enemy to fish, game, and to mankind. Not that I wish to see it exterminated, for that would be as great a pity as the extermination of any other form of animal life. But for this creature there is no such chance until large towns and cities spring up on the banks of this at present uninhabited part of the river, and until excursion launches puff up and down well-dredged channels. Until that day arrives (and may it be a long time in coming) the isolated efforts of a few sportsmen are not likely to effect any great reduction in the numbers of these reptiles. What may be effected, however, is the instilling into this reptile of an increased respect for man, and for that reason I take a shot whenever occasion offers. It is possible to put up some sort of a fight with a lion or a leopard, but the victim of the crocodile is dragged down, all unawares, never to be again seen.

Photo by Capt. R. S. Hart.

TANA RIVER.

CURIOUS RHINO HORNS.

Now let us once more trek down this big Tana River. For several days no human beings save a few Wakamba hunters have been met with, and they only few and far between. Marching downstream, and following the bank of the river in the shade of the narrow belt of trees at its edge, you occasionally disturb a little dikdik which scampers off. Before long the thorn-bush becomes denser, and you can no longer travel in the shade, but have to take to the open plains at its edge, and as you proceed, the thick thorn on either bank spreads farther and farther afield, and you have perforce to march farther away from the river. Two great forms, with shaggy heads, rise slowly up from under a tree and glare at you as you draw near. They are two old buffalo bulls which seem to resent your presence, but, after a brief stare, they toss their heads and gallop off into the bush. Much buffalo-spoor is about, and also that of giraffe. The former have left their wonted haunts some few days westward in the hills, and have wandered down to the big river, but they are not habitual visitors to these parts. Presently an alarm is given from behind, and some of the porters throw down their loads and hurriedly scramble up trees. The cause of the trouble is a buffalo cow which has been wandering by herself. Though wild enough looking as she tosses her head and tail, she intends no harm, but just gallops across, bent only on a return to the herd. Climbing on an ant-hill to watch her progress, you see her join a mass of wildly tossing horns and tails, which denote the presence of the herd.

Presently the whole herd makes off with a crashing of branches and rattling of hoofs against the loose stones lying on the red soil; then, having restored confidence among the porters, you once more proceed on your way. From high above a low thorn-tree a long-necked giraffe takes note of your approach, and soon, having satisfied itself as to your appearance, moves off and joins its family party, when, at a slow and stately gallop, the whole party makes off, with necks slightly extended, and easily recognised from their immense bulk and the height at which they stand above the low thorn-bushes. You watch them as they disappear into a dip, to reappear again on the far side and slowly make their way up to the top, where they are clearly defined against the sky, though they must be a couple of miles off.

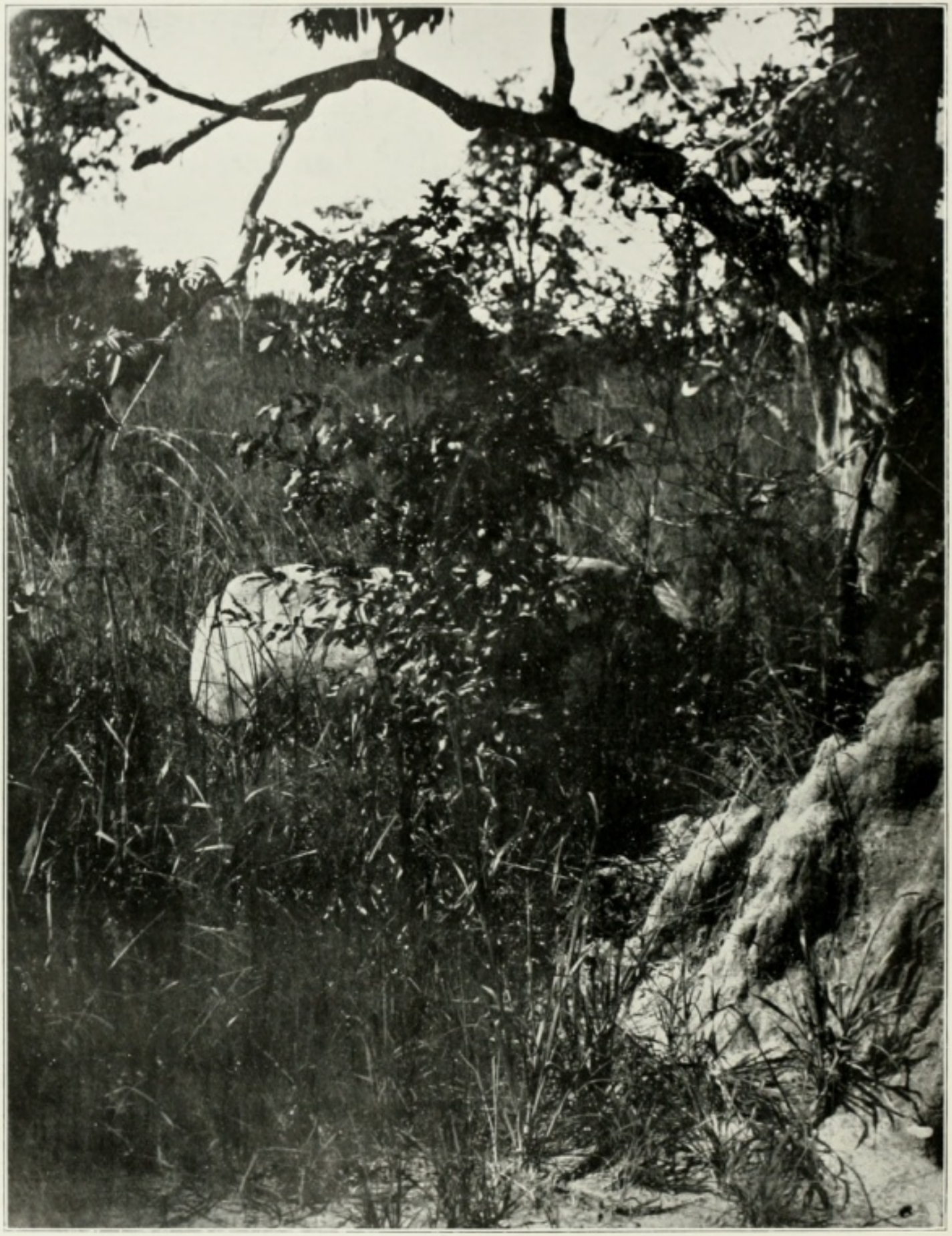
A heavy shower in the afternoon fills up some of the little water-holes on the edges of the plain, and so permits you to camp there instead of having to dive through the thick thorn-bush back to the river. Soon after sunset you hear, that finest of all nature's sounds, the lion's roar, resounding over the plains, and your hopes run high with expectancy for the morrow. However, in the morning no roaring is to be heard, although anxiously listened for, and so trek is resumed, keeping just outside the thick thorn and among the more scattered bushes, which

your desire to reach the top. Suddenly there is a breaking of branches on a flank, and, looking round, you catch a fleeting view of a flying impala. You have blundered into a herd just at the only time during the whole day that you have been off your guard. Reaching the top of the hill, a small duiker jumps out of a tuft of grass and scampers off.

The view from the top is good, and you are able to see a great deal of the country, so you note down different likely localities for future use, and also mark out a line for your return journey. On the way back you come to a deep valley—in all probability a watercourse joining your camp stream—and you see something moving at the bottom, which, on inspection with glasses, proves to be a young waterbuck emerging from his midday retreat. This is the only animal to-day which you have sighted before you have been first sighted, and in this spot the ground is favourable for observation. So you creep into the shadow of a bush and watch with glasses. The waterbuck grazes slowly down the valley, but of a sudden cocks up his ears. What has he heard or scented? Looking up above him you see, after a long search, several more waterbuck, hardly discernible against some burnt grass, coming down to the valley bottom. The first one is aware of their approach, having no doubt caught a whiff of their strong smell or heard the rattle of a stone dislodged on the hillside. They at present have not discovered him, and he stands expectantly awaiting them. When they get within about eighty yards of him they suddenly see him and halt. After looking at him for some time one or two advance little by little towards him and stop again. It reminds one more than anything of the manœuvres of strange dogs on meeting.

Presently one of the party reaches the solitary buck, and, after sniffing at him, commences butting with him. Then the others come up and examine him critically, and presently they all stroll off together down the valley, grazing as they go. They are working slowly towards a pool lower down the valley, from which they will take their evening's drink. After watching them you return to camp, and the day's work is finished.

Next morning there seems to be more game about, for, just as you leave camp, you put up a dikdik, which speeds away, and a moment later you hear the hoarse bark of a bushbuck, which tells you that you have been seen by him. You try to get a glimpse of him, but the crashing of branches tells that he is altogether too sharp for you. You next come across fresh buffalo-spoor, and this you follow, and, as it becomes fresher and fresher, the excitement grows, and you move with extra caution. Then, all of a sudden, there is a rush as of a whirlwind, and a crashing of branches and thudding of hoofs. They have outwitted you by their old trick of lying downwind



RHINO.

of their spoor, after having made a detour.* You spoor them up for the rest of the day, but do not again come up with them, and thus the second day ends uneventfully.

It becomes necessary now to shoot something to replenish the larder, even if it is only a common animal, for the meat problem is getting serious; so, early the next morning, you go down to the water and there find the fresh tracks of a rhino. You follow them up with all due caution, for, as I have said, this animal is dangerous when in the bush. When the spoor leads across the wind it is necessary to keep a constant look-out downwind, for it is unwise to let him have your wind without first seeing him.

This is a point to be very careful about—not only in the bush, but in the long, tangled and matted grass which is such a favourite resort of this beast. Whenever circumstances force you to walk across wind, you should keep a constant look-out over your shoulder downwind. For if a rhino is lying in this stuff he will be invisible as he lies; but, once you have crossed him and he has your wind, he will stand up.

So this morning, as you feel the wind on your left cheeks, you keep glancing backwards over your right shoulder. This caution stands you in good stead, for suddenly from behind a bush looms up the head and horns of a bull rhino sniffing the wind and peering round. There is no time to lose, for in another minute he will be either bolting or coming towards you with a series of engine-like puffs.

It is necessary to decide in a moment whether the horns are a good enough trophy to form one of the two allowed on the licence. If they are not good enough, you had better skip at once, and try to get out of the wind and near a climbable tree. He will probably bolt away, but it is not worth taking the chances, for "the exceptions that prove the rule" are frequent enough, especially in places where rhinos have been much harassed. Presuming the horn is good enough, then, if the sportsman has only a small bore, he should put a bullet diagonally through the forehead and into the brain, taking care that the horn is not in the line of fire, or it may deflect the bullet, and also one of the horns will be spoilt as a trophy. With a big bore, a crashing shot into the chest or shoulder is the safest, as it allows a greater margin for error.

But to resume; I will assume that the horns look a good enough trophy, and that the shot fired goes home, and I will leave the reader to decide according to his

* Some people say that they do not do this purposely. I think, however, they do it often enough to show that it is done with intent. Only the day before revising this a Congo buffalo treated me in this fashion, making a wide sweep round and taking up a position some fifty yards downwind of his tracks.

individual taste whether it was a big or a small bore which was fired, and so avoid the much-vexed question of bores.

Having brought the rhino to bag you have at least his tongue for the larder to keep camp going until you can get some other meat more toothsome. Also, you have gained some fat with which to cook, and a little biltong can be made out of the meat which will serve for soups. You call the porters and they come screeching through the bush. They are even more noisy than usual in their delight at getting so much meat. You quite regret having shot the animal now, as it means the desecration of your hunting-ground and the scaring away of all the game by this howling rabble of porters. The cutting-up operations begin and a revolting orgy follows, so after making arrangements for the various parts you want to keep, and possibly after having traced the bullet to its destination, you return to camp. Later the porters return, each carrying as much meat as he can stagger under, a ration which he will probably finish in a day or two.* Even the Mohammedan porters, if they have been without meat for some time, will find that they are able to establish their rights to eat the animal although it has not been "hallaled." They will say, "It has no neck, therefore its throat cannot be cut, so it is lawful food." This is a ruling which appears to vary considerably with the length of time since they have had meat, and is what the Wanyamwezi call "Kitowero."†

Next day a change of camp is advisable, so you shift down several miles to get an undisturbed hunting-ground. There, as you stroll along one morning, an enormous pig suddenly makes his appearance from behind a bush and leisurely walks past. You whip out glasses to have a good look at so remarkable-looking an object and watch him stroll out of sight behind another bush. It is only then that you realise that he was that seldom-shot animal, the forest-hog. You tiptoe up to the bush behind which he disappeared, for you have no better route to take, but he has heard vou or seen you through the bush, and has made off.

I have never had time to spend more than a few days in the pursuit of this animal. I hoped to get one in the forests near Nandi and the Ravine, but just as I had finished my work there, I was called away suddenly, and so was not able to spend the couple of days I had planned for the hunting of him. He is not entirely confined to forests, as is generally supposed, for I have found traces of him in bush-country in two different localities.

* I am told that many natives think nothing of eating a whole sheep at a sitting. The Wandorobo, after having gorged themselves with as much meat as they can hold, will sleep by their meat cooking by the fire, and wake up at intervals during the night to cram down a little more.

† The vulgar pronounciation of the Swahili, "Kitoweo" = meat, fish, or any flavouring eaten with rice or flour.

However, let us continue the stroll. Presently you hear a twig crack, and instantly standing quite still, you see a female impala pass behind a thinly-leafed bush, and on out of sight. You crawl nearer on hands and knees, and when about forty yards distant from the bush another female comes into view. Waiting breathlessly until it is out of sight, you then slowly and silently assume a sitting posture. To right and left you can hear others grazing, and then another one passes; it also is a female. Closely following her is an immature male, and behind him comes another male grazing, head downwards, and only his back is visible. Presently, however, he raises his head and shows a fine pair of horns; but immediately lowers again to resume grazing. That rhino tongue is not very nice, and here is a chance to obtain fresh meat and a good pair of horns into the bargain. It seems to be hours before he moves, and he is so close you feel afraid that he will hear you breathing. At last he moves forward a step, and a shot at the lungs offers. You fire, and he darts off, and the herd also breaks away.

Has a branch deflected the bullet, or what has happened? The shot was too near for you to hear the bullet strike. You now move round to the spot on which the animal stood, and see the deep impress of his hoofs where he leapt away. There is another beyond, and then another, but after that it gets mixed up with the tracks of the herd. You see a wall of bush to the right, and notice that one of the animals has leapt this; looking closer, you find a drop of blood on a leaf, and on pushing through see a large clot of frothy blood, showing that he is hit through the lungs after all. A few yards farther on you find him lying stone-dead, and, what is better, see you have not been deceived about his horns; they are a fine pair, measuring thirty inches. You cut him up with the assistance of one native who has followed you. More natives you could not take with you, for a single native is the greatest number whom you can safely trust not to talk together.

Your native disembowels the animal, and cuts out the kidneys for your morning's breakfast. The quarters are then cut off, some bark is stripped from a neighbouring tree, and the legs are tied together for transit. The head also is taken, whilst the rest of the meat is put up in the fork of a tree to be brought in later. The spot chosen for this reserve meat larder must be at some distance from the remains left on the ground, and the meat should be covered over with branches, so that it may escape the observation of vultures. You then set off back to camp, well pleased with the day's doings.

Now, in one of the little inlets of plain running into the bush you have noticed fresh bushbuck spoor upon several occasions, but early morning visits to the spot have not enabled you to see one of these animals; so the next day, after spending

CHAPTER X.

THE GAME OF UGANDA AND THE EASTERN CONGO.

DIRECTLY you cross Lake Victoria and arrive in Uganda you meet with a complete change of scenery and country. Uganda has not the variety and quantity of game to boast of that is possessed by East Africa. Still, it has plenty of the commoner species, such as waterbuck, hartebeest, Uganda kob, bush-buck, and reedbuck; and the country is famous for elephant and buffalo. On the Nile are found many interesting species which do not exist in East Africa—interesting in that they are not commonly obtained by the usual tourist-sportsman.

One thing which forcibly strikes the hunter coming from the plainlands of East Africa is the difference in the habits of the game of this part, and likewise the bush-craft of the natives. The game (as is usual with animals dwelling in bush or long, coarse-grass country) is at once more thinly distributed and more wary; and the natives, who are naturally adapted to the conditions of the country, will be found to be better trackers than natives of the short-grass and open plainlands. They have also a wonderful aptitude for finding their ways about in thick country where no general view is obtainable and no landmarks are visible. In possessing these qualities they are like the natives of the thick-grass countries of North-Eastern Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

The shooting parts of the Protectorate of Uganda are, generally speaking, on the westward side, for the eastern end of Uganda proper, on the borders of Lake Victoria, is thickly populated. On the westward side are situated the two game reserves of the Protectorate, the Budonga Forest reserve and the Semliki or Ruisamba reserve. Both of these are ill-defined in their limits, and in many places it is difficult or impossible to tell where the reserves begin and end.

The famous elephant centres are Masindi and Toro. In the neighbourhood of Masindi the elephants yield soft or "Uganda" ivory—very thick and heavy in tusk. This soft ivory is also found on the Nile, on both banks of the Bahr-al-Gebel, and in Buddu. Of the other game of the Masindi district, lions are found, but, like most bush lions, they are wary and hard to bag. Their chief food in this long-grass country appears to be pig.

Situtunga inhabit the rivers of the Kafu and also many other rivers and swamps, and are said to be fairly plentiful. Owing to the swampy nature of the country they inhabit, however, they are practically unobtainable. Perhaps the only way to secure them is to hold a large drive with several hundred beaters driving a swamp. A few animals have been bagged in this way. They live all day under water or in the heart of the swamps, but occasionally come out at night to graze on the grass at the edge of their haunts. No doubt, after a careful study of their habits and spoors, a fair measure of success might be attained by selecting a place in which to sit up for them. However, sitting up for a herbivorous animal, which may graze anywhere, is a very different matter to sitting over a kill for a carnivore, which, if it comes for the kill at all, must come within close range.

In parts of the Sesse Islands the situtunga were at one time common, and there they were easily bagged, having but little natural cover to protect them. Some years ago a party of so-called sportsmen inaugurated a big drive, and are said to have nearly exterminated them in a single day. One of this party gives an account of the slaughter in "Large and Small Game of Africa." After this occurrence these animals were put on the protected list, for it was not then known that they existed in other parts of the Protectorate. Subsequently it was discovered that in almost every big swamp, of which there are many, situtunga are to be found. In view of this they were taken off the protected list, and now two are allowed on a licence.

Of other animals found in the Masindi neighbourhood there are buffalo and, near the Kafu, waterbuck (sing-sing), hartebeest (Jackson's), and kob (Uganda)—all fairly plentiful. The grass becomes very long in this district towards the end of the season, and hunting is then difficult and, when out after elephant or buffalo, the work may be said to be dangerous. The early part of the year from February to March is the best for this section of country.

In the Budonga reserve elephants are plentiful, and chimpanzees are said to be there also. South of the Budonga Forest, and between Hoima (Kaoro) and Lake Albert, elephants are often found. Near this lake there exists a peculiar form of bushbuck or harnessed antelope, with horns shorter and thinner than the common kind.

The best shooting-ground in Uganda is supposed to be in Ankole and on the Semliki River. The cattle of Ankole are remarkable for their horns, and it is from this district that the record buffalo trophies come. The waterbuck of the Semliki and west of Lake Albert are remarkable for the size of their horns. From this part and westwards is obtained the "Gendai," "Congo," or forest ivory. It is long, thin,

and graceful in tusk, and of hard quality, not so valuable as the soft Uganda ivory. In these parts there is also a forest-hog, but I do not know if it is the forest of the Ituri or that of East Africa. The usual common buck as well as buffalo are found here and in Buddu also.

The East African hunter in search of new species will find the Nile far more productive of specimens, for from Nimule to Gondokoro, and especially near the latter place, the shooting is good, and several kinds of animals are found which are not met with in the ordinary shooting-grounds of East Africa. There may be had white-eared kob and likewise Mrs. Gray's kob, also the Abyssinian buffalo, Abyssinian oribi, Rothschild's gazelle, besides giraffe, ostrich, and elephant.

There is a large herd of female elephants which make the neighbourhood of Gondoroko their breeding-grounds. In the Nile (especially in the Bahr-al-Gebel) numbers of hippos are found, and are in this part very dangerous to canoes, accidents being constantly reported. I have never met with them in any other place quite so formidable. On the Zambezi River they occasionally upset canoes, but in most places hippos are looked upon as genial and good-tempered old fellows, mildly curious as to the doings of mankind. The natives of the Bahr-al-Gebel, however, are constantly molesting and hunting them with arrows, harpoons, and muzzle-loaders, and this no doubt has the effect of making them fierce, for it by no means serves to make them shy or fearful of mankind. At sight or smell of a canoe they will, as often as not, approach to investigate at close quarters, rearing head, neck, and chest out of the water. When one of them wishes to upset a canoe it will approach under water, and if not fired at during its preliminary inspection no other chance for a shot will offer. They seem, as a rule, to content themselves with simply upsetting a canoe, but occasionally will maul the occupants in the water. I attended to a native on the Bahr-al-Gebel who had nearly had his arm severed by one of these animals. It had upset his canoe and then caught him by the arm, inflicting two enormous gashes back and front, each several inches long and about two inches deep.

A native of this locality told me that lions occasionally killed young hippos when on land at night, and added that he had heard of two such cases near his own village, and moreover had himself once seen the body of a hippo with the spoor of a lion about it. Very possibly he was telling the truth, as he volunteered the information, and had no object in making the story up. Lions, too, at certain seasons do inhabit both banks of the Bahr-al-Gebel, and are often heard at night. They appear to roam over large areas, after the manner of bush-lions, and feed, as in Uganda, mostly on pig.

Crocodiles are numerous in the Nile, and just below the Murchison Falls at Fajao

WHITE RHINO.

are found in immense numbers. There is there a small bay, along the shores of which some hundreds of these reptiles used to congregate and lie together in a dense mass. By approaching quietly one was able to get within a hundred yards of them before they would take alarm. The whole shore would then appear to be moving down into the river as the hoards scuttled into the water, jostling and pushing each other, stirring up the mud, and making the water seethe and foam.

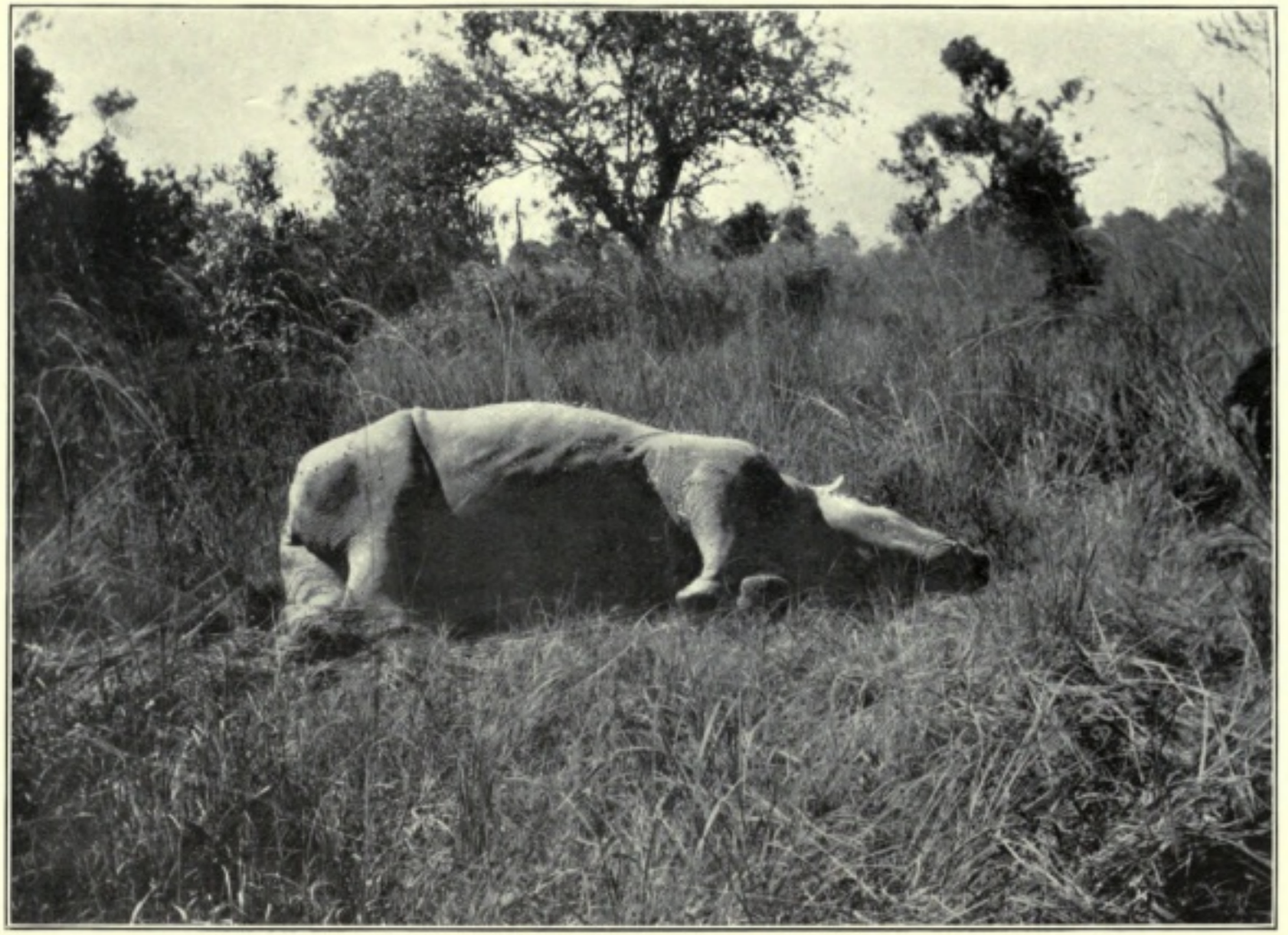
The commoner buck, such as Uganda kob and waterbuck, are plentiful on the shores of the Bahr-al-Gebel, and a little blue duiker is to be had. On the Congo side of the Nile the Congo buffalo is found near Mahagi, and is plentiful there. This buffalo is redder than the Cape buffalo, the coloration being of marked degree in the young, but not so great in the females.

Elephants are numerous almost everywhere in the enclave, and are found in enormous herds of several hundreds. The old bulls appear generally to be obtained in denser country farther back from the river. The elephants of the enclave are particularly dangerous, as the herds of females do not, as a rule, stampede on being alarmed, but, on the contrary, often appear anxious to investigate and satisfy themselves as to the cause of the alarm. The old bulls, on being disturbed, will often make off downwind for a short distance, and then wait in thick cover scenting and listening for the approach of anything following them. Tusks each of one hundred pounds and over are not uncommon both there and in Uganda.

The white, or square-lipped, rhino is found only on the left bank of the Nile. He ranges, roughly speaking, from Wadelai (Belgian) to the northern border of the enclave, and appears to be found nowhere beyond two to three days' journey back from the Nile, and in no other part of Africa. I have not heard of a case of a white rhino being seen on the right bank of the Nile, nor have I heard of a case of a black rhino being seen in the habitat of the square-lipped rhino. The square-lipped rhino is very much larger in size than the common rhino. Of other differences, his forehead appears to be higher and squarer, and the base of the horn is square instead of rounded. The most distinctive difference, however, is in the shape of his lips, which are square instead of pointed as with his smaller congener.

It is noticeable that nearly all the elephants of Masindi are covered with old and fresh rifle wounds (inflicted by native muzzle-loaders and European breech-loaders), whilst the elephants of the enclave are clean, and seldom bear any signs of wounds upon them.

In the neighbourhood of Belgian Wadelai the grass is short. It grows longer and longer as one proceeds down the river, till at Dufile and inland from there it grows well over the height of an elephant.



WHITE RHINO, SHOWING SQUARE LIP.

In the Congo forests the okapi, the Ituri forest-hog (*Hylochærus ituriensis*), the chimpanzee, and many other new and interesting creatures are met with. North of Lake Victoria, past Mbale, and towards Karamoja and Elgon is some shooting-ground corresponding more to the East African type of country than to any other. There elephants are plentiful, and the commoner kinds of buck, the lesser kudu, and the oryx beisa. I have heard it rumoured that the greater kudu also is to be found in the locality.

BURCHELL'S RHINO.

RHINO, BURCHELL'S.

Habitat.—This animal, so far as is at present known, occurs only in a very limited area of the Lado Enclave. (This is, of course, excepting the few specimens still known to exist south of the Zambezi.) It is found a few miles north of Wadelai (Belgian), and extends from there along the Nile's left bank as far, I believe, as the border of the Soudan. It does not appear to wander far from the river, and I have not observed it or its spoor beyond three days' journey inland from the Nile. I have not heard of a case of the animal having been found on the right bank of the Nile, nor have I heard of a case of a black rhino ever having been found on the left bank of the Nile, at just this part, viz., Wadelai to Lado or Kiro.

Burchell's rhino differs from the black rhino; firstly, in that it is square-lipped, whereas its congener is prehensile and pointed-lipped. It is also of much greater bulk, probably weighing about a ton more than the other. It stands perhaps six to eight inches higher at the shoulder, and its head is much more massive. Its horns grow to greater dimensions, and are square instead of rounded at the base. As to colour, it seems perhaps a shade lighter than the other species.

Rhino seem to vary much in the colour of their skins, and it is often difficult to tell what their real colour is unless the skin is washed. The rhino shown in Chapter X. was certainly a very light-coloured one, and this effect was not entirely produced by white mud. Others I saw were slightly lighter in hue than the average black rhino. Individuals of the latter species, however, are occasionally seen of a much lighter shade than their fellows.

Burchell's rhino is a grass feeder, whereas the other rhino is chiefly a thorn and bush feeder. As the present habitat of the square-lipped rhino is a long-grass country, it is better fitted to survive than the ill-fated South African variety.

RHINO, BLACK.

Native Names.

Swahili (Mombasa) . .	Faru.	Kitaita	Mbela.
„ (Zanzibar) . .	Kifaru.	Ogiek (Ravine)	Kipkamit.
„ (Safari)	Fau.	Luganda	Enkula.
Kikuyu	Huria.	Masai	E-mune.
Kikamba	Mbuzya.	Ogieg	♂ Eto.
Embei	Mbuzia, Munyi.		♀ Elebwatit.
Kavirondo	Omuga.	Nandi	Kisurichet.

Habitat.—The rhino of East Africa takes naturally to the open plains. As the grass is short and there is but little cover, he is as defenceless and vulnerable as the Burchell's rhino of South Africa used to be. Fortunately for his chances of survival in this country, there are also large tracts of dense thorn in which he is accustomed to wander. Those animals that inhabit this latter country are as dangerous and inaccessible as the rhino of other parts of Africa.

Food.—The usual diet of the black or bush-dwelling rhino is a mixture of thorn-bush and grass. In parts of Africa where the grass is long, tangled, and matted he is as safe wandering in such grass-country as he is in the bush. In East Africa, however, owing to the shortness of the grass, directly he leaves the bush-country he becomes a conspicuous object. In parts of the

country where the thorn is dense he seldom need leave the thick bush, as patches of grass occur mingled with the thorn. In other parts, however, he appears to spend much of his time in the open or to live in thornless forest or bush, feeding on leaves and thistle-like plants.

Range of Sight.—Range of vision of the rhino in all probability does not exceed thirty-five yards. I have often been within this distance of rhinos facing me, and have been convinced that they have not seen me.

Sense of Hearing.—He is also not very quick at hearing, being considerably below the average game animal in this respect.

Sense of Smell.—He has, however, an acute sense of smell, though inferior in this respect to the elephant and buffalo.

Ferocity.—The rhino is undoubtedly a fairly plucky animal, and on occasions gives way to unreasoning fits of rage. I have heard of many instances of rhinos charging objects as various as a train, a tent, a horse, and a hencoop. With reference to the well-known instance of a rhino having charged a train, a friend of mine has called my attention to the disgraceful way the train must have been overcrowded on that day. A first-class coach is only supposed to seat twelve people, but he himself had met nearly twenty men who told him that they had been on that occasion in the carriage that was charged.

It is very likely that the majority of rhinos which make themselves unpleasant have been at some time wounded, and so have good reason to resent mankind and all that pertains to him. I have never noticed that they make themselves objectionable to game, but if they did so, no doubt the animals could get out of their way easily enough. Neither have I ever heard of their doing any harm to Masai or their cattle, although these people often graze their herds in spots abounding with rhinos. This is noticeably the case just north of Nyeri, where the Masai graze their cattle amongst clumps and patches of thick bush notorious for dangerous rhinos.

Wherever rhino are common there may be observed numbers of rhino privies to which they go to deposit their droppings. After this action they scratch backwards with their hind legs, generally breaking up the droppings. The only explanation I have ever heard given for this proceeding is that offered by the Wanyamwezi in one of their folk-lore stories. This is, that the elephant becomes angry if he finds a whole dropping belonging to the rhino, as it is so like his own, and so he compels the rhino to break up his.

Mud Bathing.—The rhino is very fond of mud baths. Tracks leading from these baths will often be found with all leaves, twigs, trees, and branches close to the track plastered thickly with mud. When such a track is met with the direction of the mud-hole can easily be seen, as the mud will be plastered on the sides of trees and branches nearest the bath, for the rhinos, of course, only leave mud on them when coming from the bath.

Rhinos are generally found either singly or in pairs. A single rhino is generally a male, while a pair constitute a female and young. When the young has grown up somewhat, a male will often join the pair, but frequently grazes a little apart. So when three are seen together they are generally male, female, and young.

Unlike the elephant, the rhino calf leaves the mother just before another is born. I have never seen a rhino with two calves. When more than three rhinos are seen together the probability is that two or more parties happen to be grazing in the same spot.

Rhinos puff loudly when charging or when running away, and so one is generally warned when they are disturbed. They seldom seem to lie down for any length of time, but stand up every now and again and sniff and turn round, and then lie down again, or move on to another

place. When they get up and stand they have a habit of peering downwind as if they were looking at something. They are probably listening for danger, but if the sportsman is advancing from that direction he is liable to be bluffed into thinking that the animal has seen him. Rhinos are very fond of lying in thick and tangled long-grass country. When lying down in such grass they are not visible, but when they get your wind they generally stand up at once. It is risky following spoor downwind in such country or in bush.

If circumstances compel the sportsman to move across the wind in this kind of country a constant look-out should be kept downwind and over the shoulder. For one may pass quite close to a party of rhinos lying down without seeing them, and if they are downwind of him they will probably get his wind and stand up just after he has passed them.

Rhinos, whether hit in brain, heart, or lungs, are more often found dead in a sitting position than lying on the sides.

A female will often leave a young calf lying down whilst she grazes round for a little while and then returns to it.

Sharpening Horns.—A rhino can sharpen both back and front horns on a stone. The long, thin anterior horns of the females are constantly getting broken, and are then gradually sharpened again.

This is the reason that old females are so often seen with short horns only a foot or so long.

In hilly country rhinos will often choose a spur on which to lie when the wind is blowing down the spur. In such a position they can probably hear better anything approaching from downwind or from a flank.

Sores on Underside.—They almost invariably have open sores on the undersides of their bellies where the skin is thin and soft. Drops of blood from these sores may sometimes be seen where the animals have been lying. The friction of thorns and grass, together with the gigantic ticks which are generally found on this part of the body, are probably the cause. Schillings speaks of one sore about the size of a crown which is always found in the same spot. I have never been able to find this particular sore, but have always noticed a sore or sores varying in size from a sixpence to a dessert-plate, and varying in number from one to three or four. The same writer mentions that long vertical gashes are found on the sides of hippos and rhinos, but not on elephants.

Elephants fight by prodding with the tusks, and on occasions when they have caught a hunter they generally try to prod him when on the ground. Wounds and scars on elephants are generally circular or short gashes. A rhino fights by tossing his head, an action which produces a ripping wound. Hippos also tear long straight gashes with their teeth. In the distance a rhino looks more like a great pig than anything else. When alarmed, it sticks its tail straight up in the air as does a warthog. Where they have not been much disturbed they often graze on the plains by day and retire to the forest by night. Where they have been disturbed they often reverse this proceeding. The sight of rhinos strolling about unconcernedly in the open plains is year by year growing more unusual in the neighbourhood of familiar shooting-grounds.

The game-ranger's report of 1903 speaks of rhinos as being numerous on the Athi Plains. At the present day they are practically never seen in the unreserved portion of these plains, while they are seldom seen in the open even in the game reserve. As time goes on, doubtless they will become rare objects even on the more remote plains. However, in the bush bordering the plains they are still common.

Rhino Birds.—In the more civilised parts of the Protectorate the rhinos appear to have

learnt how to tell the approach of man by the behaviour of the tick-birds accompanying them. In uncivilised parts, however, they are still wonderfully unsophisticated, and will sometimes stand all unconscious or unsuspecting of danger long after these birds have flown away. These birds I believe to be responsible to a large extent for the many sores often found on the rhinos. They pull off the ticks and with them small pieces of skin, and they also appear to peck at old and festering sores.

I have noticed rhinos or the spoor of rhino in the following parts of British East Africa:—

Athi Plains. Now confined to a few in the reserve.

In the bush near Kiu and Ol Doinyo Sapuk.

In a forest near the Ndurugu River, just north of where it is crossed by the Fort Hall road.

Ngong Forest and Mountain.

Kedong Valley, formerly plentiful, but now almost entirely confined to the forests on the escarpments.

The Aberdares and Kinangop (Nguzeru) Mountain.

Ithanga Hills, very plentiful.

On both banks of the Tana, below its junction with Thika River, very plentiful to Mumoni, and probably beyond.

West of Embei country, plentiful.

In Ukamba country, between Tana and Kitui, and on the lower Athi, plentiful.

North and east of Nyeri, plentiful.

Baringo and northwards and east shore of Rudolf, very plentiful.

It is also reported from almost every part of the Protectorate where thick thorn and bush is found.

In Uganda it occurs plentifully northwards towards Elgon, but is scarce or non-existent in most parts.

It occurs plentifully on the right bank of the Nile, and inland from Nimule and Gondokoro. I have not heard of it, however, as occurring on the west bank of the Nile at this part.

ROAN.

Native Names.

Kavirondo . . . . . Omuga. Ogiek (Ravine) . . . . . Lalgotiet.

This animal is fairly local in British East Africa. I have seen it near the Ithanga Hills, on the Guas Ngishu, and in the low country round Muhoroni, in the latter place plentifully. A herd is said to be near Machakos. A variety, Baker's roan, occurs in Uganda, on the Nile.

It is also found on the German border near the Kisii country.

I found a considerable quantity of bits of bone in a roan's stomach which I obtained near the Ravine. I have never noticed that these animals ate bone before.

SABLE.

Native Names.

Kinyika . . . . . Kalungu.

The only part of the Protectorate in which this animal is known to exist is in the Shimba Hills, and inland from Gazi on the coast.