

The Straits Times, 19 December 1913, Page 9

AFTER WHITE RHINO.

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AFTER WHITE RHINO.

Expedition Leaves London For Africa.

There is no white rhinoceros in the Natural History Museum at South Kensington, but an expedition has just left London to try and secure a specimen in the wilds of the Sudanese-Abyssinian hinterland. The white rhino is one of the rarest and most elusive animals in Africa, and the members of the expedition, all big game hunters, led by Mr. Abel Chapman, are fully prepared to have to spend twelve or eighteen months searching for him. In the meanwhile, they will try to collect specimens of certain species of antelopes which are missing in the fine collection at the Natural History Museum, and, of course, anything else worth bagging from the naturalist's point of view that comes along will be secured. But the chief end and object of the trip is to get a white rhino, one of the most coveted of all Natural History Museum specimens.

They are gradually completing their collection of rhinos at South Kensington. The King has just presented the museum with a fine head of an Indian rhinoceros, which he shot in Nepal two years ago. It has been placed near to the big tiger which his Majesty shot about the same time, and which he presented to the museum recently. There are three species of Indian rhino, and though they now have specimens of two at South Kensington, the third, a rare sort, is still lacking. One of the finest heads is that given by the Maharajah of Cooch Behar, which is to be found near the "Royal specimens," all of which are in the section where the Hume collection of Indian game animals is housed. This is not the first time that his Majesty has presented sporting trophies to the Natural History Museum. One of the great elephant skeletons is the relic of a magnificent animal that fell to the King's gun in India. The latest addition to the museum is a small representative selection of specimens brought home by the Capt. Scott Antarctic Expedition (1910). The specimens are being arranged for exhibition in the central hall of the museum.

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