THE ENCYCLOPÆDIA OF SPORT & GAMES

IN FOUR VOLUMES

VOLUME IV

RACKETS—ZEBRA

WITH ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED ILLUSTRATIONS

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a sort of game, like croquet, lawn tennis, or golf.

The only useful practice is rapid shooting and a moving series of competitions, as a revolver is only used for war or self-defence at extremely short range and in very rapid firing. There are many enthusiasts who make good scores at small stationary bull's eyes, and are constantly improving at that sort of skill, who could not hit even the outer edge of the target if called on to take a snap-shot from either on foot or horseback. In all shooting competitions, as in fact in all competitions which were originally intended to be practised for some useful

THE WEBLEY-FOSBERY AUTOMATIC REVOLVER.

The barrel and cylinder, separate from the butt, are mounted upon a recoiling frame. The rearward motion caused by the recoil serves to put the hammer at full cock, at the same time compressing a spring which, by reverse action, returns the barrel and cylinder to their original position. On an extension of the trigger guard is a stud which fits into the V-shaped grooves of the cylinder. As the cylinder moves backwards during the recoil, the grooves sliding on the fixed stud cause it to make a slight rotary motion, and as it is pushed forward again a further and similar motion is made; the cylinder has then revolved sufficiently to bring the next cartridge opposite the hammer.

purpose, there is a constant and seemingly inevitable tendency to drift into unpractical lines, and a development in just that direction which is useless for all practical purposes. In racing it gets into breeding racing "machines" which cannot carry a child's weight; in pigeon-shooting, clay bird shooting, and rifle-shooting, it only teaches a knack for those particular sports, which is of no use in the field. In the same way revolver shooting at stationary targets spoils a man's handling of a revolver.

If I had to train a man to shoot a revolver for practical use, I would rather take one with good eyesight and a steady hand, who had never fired a revolver before, than some of our crack revolver prize winners. The former may learn to shoot properly; the latter never. I consider Rapid firing, six shots in 12 seconds, practical revolver competition, but unfortunately very few men, and those mostly Frenchmen, enter for it, stationary targets being more generally preferred.

As revolver shooting clubs have to study the likes and dislikes of their patrons, it seems inevitable that revolver shooting will have to continue on the same old unpractical lines of deliberate shooting at stationary targets. WALTER WINANS.

RHINOCEROS. —SOUTH AFRICA.

Habitat.—Some forty years ago the two species of African rhinoceros were common in the country lying between the foothills of the Drakensberg Range in the Eastern Transvaal and the Libombo Mountains. The range of the **black** or prehensile-lipped species (*Rhinoceros bicornis*) extended through the Drakensberg foothills, the thorn thickets between the Oliphants, Letaba, and Limpopo, and the Sabi and Crocodile Rivers. At the present day a few only linger in the Matamiri Bush near the Sabi Poort in the Libombo Range, and in the dense forests on the eastern slopes of the Libombo in the neighbourhood of the Singwetsi River.

In South Africa the square-mouthed or **white** species (so called from Boer "wirthinaster." It is of a dull brown-black colour) (*R. simus*) was common enough in the open bush country along the courses of the Malumbakwane and other south-easterly flowing tributaries of the Crocodile River, and in the neighbourhood of the Sabi, but since 1885 I have heard of no authenticated instance of its having been seen at all in those parts. A few specimens of this "white" species undoubtedly roamed also about the slopes of the Libombo, for in 1893 I found two skulls of these animals near the Rooi Rand.

Shooting. — Rhinoceroses are perhaps the most easily killed of all great game. A bullet from an ordinary "sporting Martini" will drop them instantly either with the neck or head shot. In the former case the spot to be aimed for is about half-way along and five inches above an imaginary line drawn along the middle of the neck from head to shoulder, while for the head shot the bullet must enter about three inches in front of the base of the ear. The latter is a certainty if the beast is standing motionless, but they frequently shift their heads about uneasily, which makes the shot difficult. The shoulder shot should not be attempted unless one is carrying a large-bore rifle. The beast succumbs quickly if shot through both lungs; if through one it will often spin rapidly round, kicking up the hind legs; uttering loud vicious snorts, and generally behaving in a manner which is very trying to the nerves of a tiro. In fact, though I do not believe the rhinoceros to be so dangerous a beast as he is often represented, yet his behaviour on most occasions when wounded, his blind, furious

charges, and loud snorts, are likely to cause considerable embarrassment to any one whose acquaintance with these animals is small. If shot through one lung only, a rhinoceros of either species will travel till doomsday, even though throwing blood copiously from mouth and nose.

Stalking.—I do not consider a rhinoceros at all an easy beast to stalk, for it is almost invariably accompanied by "rhinoceros-birds" which follow it for the sake of the parasites which infest its hide, and give immediate warning of the sportsman's approach. When unaccompanied by birds, however, a rhinoceros is a piggishly stupid beast, of very little intelligence, and will permit of a very near approach—up-wind,

WHITE RHINOCEROS.

of course, for if the attempt were made down-wind he would be away before one was within half a mile of him, so extraordinary is his sense of smell. When roused by the rhinoceros-birds, he jumps up and makes off at once, up-wind, without asking questions; when alarmed or wounded, he often starts off down-wind, but very soon comes round into the wind again, and so continues.

Habits.—Rhinoceroses drink about an hour after sundown, often going and returning great distances; they seldom feed anywhere near their drinking places, but strike a bee-line through the forest for several miles before commencing. They then feed throughout the night, making their way again at earliest dawn to the water, where they drink and wallow, and afterwards retire to their mid-day retreat, so that they are seldom to be found moving about after 10 A.M. During the rains, however, the animals have been seen by the writer feeding at mid-day.

The dung of the prehensile-lipped rhinoceros is dark red-brown in colour, full of small chips of wood, sometimes taking a greenish tinge from the young sprouts upon which the beast has fed; it is deposited in a heap under a tree, or in a hollow scooped out by the beast's horn and nose. These heaps are visited regularly on subsequent occasions, and the rhinoceros scatters the dung about in all directions, ploughing up great furrows in the ground with its horn. Similar furrows, semicircular in shape, and on alternate sides, are often made by rhinoceroses as they walk through the bush, the anterior portion of the horn frequently being thereby much worn down. When disturbed, they move away at a slinging trot, but if alarmed suddenly, or closely pursued, they break into a quick gallop, a pace which in rough country gives a horse all he can do to hold his own, and which the rhinoceros can keep up for a great distance. They are extremely active beasts in rough hill country, clambering up and down the most precipitous places as expeditiously as elephants.

The aforesaid **white** rhinoceros is as easily killed as his smaller brother; but, though often spoken of as an inoffensive beast, is quite as prone to charge.

The square-mouthed rhinoceros is essentially a grass-feeder, hence its range is far more limited than that of the black, which finds subsistence over a vast extent of rough hill country covered with thorny bush, but where no grass is found.

In appearance, the square-mouthed rhinoceros is a far more ungainly beast than his congener. His bulk is enormous, and the huge head seems altogether out of proportion, and he has been known to attain a height of 6 feet 3 inches at the shoulder. His spoor is considerably larger than that of the black species; that of the fore-foot of a bull of the latter, in damp sand, measures about 27 inches in circumference, while that of the white rhinoceros is 36 inches; and the difference in size between the spoor of the front and hind feet of the white rhinoceros is considerably less than between those of the black, while the hind feet leave a rounder spoor than those of the latter, which tend to an oval. Its habits are in some respects very similar to those of the black species: it feeds in the evening after visiting the water, and throughout the night and early morning, drinking again before lying up for the day. Its sight is equally dull, and its senses of hearing and smell as singularly acute. But it moves more sluggishly, and lacks the quick, nervous actions of the other. When alarmed, however, it can get away with surprising speed, at a swift trot, and only

breaks into a gallop if closely pursued. It is said that the white rhinoceros cannot travel with a broken hind leg, and this may be the case, but the writer has seen a black rhinoceros cow, with her leg broken above the knee, go at a pace that kept himself and his gun-carrier at a sharp run for over a mile to keep up with her; both beasts, however, will travel for over two miles without a halt with a broken shoulder. Rhinoceroses are difficult to stop when charging, for, owing to the shortness of their legs, there is little chance of putting a bullet into the chest, especially if the grass is at all long.

RHINOCEROS. [*From a drawing by E. G. Caldwell.*

In the case of the white species, the spine can be reached at the junction of the neck and shoulder, as he carries his head very low; but the black holds it high and jauntily. The square-mouthed species does not scatter its dung about, as is the custom of the prehensile-lipped, nor does it frequently revisit these spots. The former falls quickly to a bullet through the heart or both lungs, usually falling on its side, and not on its knees, as the other rhinoceros almost invariably does. The shot for the neck should be about 3 or 4 inches lower than in the case of the black rhinoceros.

Weapon and Ammunition.—I have found a Metford rifle of ·461 bore, carrying a 540 or 570 gr. hardened projectile, excellent for rhinoceroses, but these beasts take a lot of stopping at times, so that, although this is a perfect weapon for a head or neck shot when the beast is quiescent, something heavier is required for a quickly moving or especially a charging beast. I consider a good 12-bore double rifle, with 6 or 7 drams of powder and a hardened conical projectile of 2¼ oz., quite heavy enough to account for any rhinoceros, and have done my best work with this handy weapon.

By far the most certain method of bagging rhinoceroses, and a much more sportsmanlike and satisfactory one than watching for their return to their drinking places, is to be up at dawn, and walk up-wind along the course of any river at which they are accustomed to drink, and about a mile from it; water must be carried, and as soon as the spoor is cut the beast can be followed up. Even if disturbed once or twice, he will not go more than about two miles before halting again, when he will usually offer a broadside shot; but, if hunted about much, he is apt to become very petulant. If, on following a beast up, it is found that he has retreated into long grass or reeds, the hunter should post himself near the spot at which the rhinoceros entered the cover, a little to one side, and of course below wind, while the native attendants can be sent round in a wide circle above wind. The rhinoceros will soon move, and though there is a chance of his charging up-wind, he is far more likely to make his way out of the cover at the spot where he entered it, giving the hunter an easy shot. If possible, the latter should reserve his fire till the rhinoceros is broadside or a little past him. If the rhinoceros runs dead away from the rifle, unless

the weapon be a heavy one, it is best to let him go, and follow up again leisurely, when he will surely be found again inside of two miles, probably halting under a tree, listening intently, and standing broadside at right angles to his spoor.

F. VAUGHAN KIRBY.

The Lado Enclave.—About the time that it was supposed to be on the verge of extermination, the white rhinoceros was discovered by Major Gibbons to be living in the Lado Enclave, on the Equator, whence its range was subsequently found to extend into the southern part of the Bahr-el-Ghazal. As a matter of fact, its existence on the Equator had been long previously hinted at, since horns were brought from the Lake Chad district by the explorers Denham and Clapperton early in the nineteenth century; and these commodities had for centuries been traded by the Arabs from the equatorial provinces of the Sudan. On the evidence of a skull presented by Major P. H. G. Powell-Cotton to the British Museum, I gave the name of *R. simus cottoni* to the Lado white rhinoceros, which differs from the southern by the wider front of the skull, and apparently also by the nature of the sculpture of the skin. These rhinoceroses appear to abound in the equatorial jungles, and a number of specimens were procured during the Roosevelt expedition.

Not infrequently the second horn of the white rhinoceros forms a mere knob; and it has been suggested that such practically one-horned examples gave rise to the legend of the unicorn.

It may be mentioned in this place that both species of African rhinoceroses differ from their Asiatic relatives in the absence of folds in the skin, and likewise in the lack of incisor teeth in the front of their jaws. In consequence of this, the African species fight solely with their horns, whereas Asiatic rhinoceroses, as mentioned in Colonel Pollok's article, attack with their lower tusks.

R. LYDEKKER.

SOMALILAND.—The common two-horned "black" rhinoceros (*R. bicornis*), which is very widely distributed over Africa, and seems to be in no immediate danger of becoming extinct, exists in moderate numbers, though nowhere so plentifully as in Equatorial Africa, in suitable country in parts of the Somali plateau, in the bush-covered wilderness of Ogaden, on the Webbe Shabeyli river, and in the Galla country beyond. In the hinterland of the North Somali Coast it has not been found to exist much nearer to the sea than a hundred and fifty to two hundred miles. Rhinoceroses may come nearer to the coast in the country to the east towards Cape Guardafui.

The tracks are best found by pursuing the course of a river as described in the foregoing article. The ground is generally too broken for riding, so the sportsman must proceed on foot, and should be accompanied by a guide, a couple of carriers, and perhaps a camel, for the head and shields of a rhinoceros make a full load.

The fresh tracks of a good bull having been found—those of a cow or young one would generally be of little interest to the sportsman—they are not difficult to follow, the hard toes, at least, leaving a well-defined mark. The trail, after emerging from the last pool visited, will strike away from the river at right angles, and lead straight through the bush to the distant feeding ground. The trail, leading up the thorny bush-choked ravines and broken ground which form the approaches to the river-beds, involves a great deal of walking, and with the sun rising higher and getting hotter every moment, it is tiring work. The trail will probably after some time begin to wind about a good deal among thorn trees; here and there it will become a maze of tracks in one place, difficult to unravel, where the rhinoceros has lingered to feed about. By about eleven o'clock he will probably have stopped feeding and halted to rest, and will, if approached up the wind, be first seen standing dozing under a thorn bush or lying down.

The writer has tried, with some success, watching over water in the dry season, forming a "zeriba" with an opening commanding the pool. The construction of such a shelter is of importance, because a rhino will charge through brushwood easily. A strong thorn-tree should be chosen, with a thick stem, which should form the back of the shelter. The overhanging branches may be pulled down in front and at the sides as a screen, and it is an advantage to have it so situated that the ground falls away steeply in front to the pool.

Somalis kill the rhinoceros with the Midgan bow and poisoned arrows. The hide is valuable for shields, as many as from fifteen to twenty being cut from the skin of a single bull. The flesh is fairly eatable and makes good soup.

As the track may have to be followed for hours, by the time the hide has been removed—which is done in large slabs, these having been previously marked out on the body—and the return journey to camp accomplished, it may be already sunset; so it is advisable, when starting on such a hunt,

PAIR OF RHINOCEROS MEDITATING A CHARGE.

A RHINOCEROS IN THE ACT OF CHARGING.

TELEPHOTOGRAPH OF RHINOCEROS ABOUT TO CHARGE. THE BIRDS ARE STILL ON THEIR BACKS.

CHARGING RHINOCEROS TAKEN AT 15 YARDS.

ONE OF A PAIR CHARGING.

CHARGING RHINOCEROS TURNED BY A SHOT. [*Photographs by A. Radclyffe Dugmore.*

to take an attendant with water and food. A good plan, after killing one or more rhinos, if water can be found not far off, is to send for the caravan and camp by the carcases, when they can be cut up at leisure. Among Somalis, who, about

BLACK OR TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

food, are even more fastidious than other Mohammedan races, most of the meat is wasted.

A good pair of horns will measure about 20 inches for the front and 6 for the back horn. The skin of the head is very difficult to remove without damage at the point where it fits over the lumps which form the support to the horns. The horns themselves come off in one piece with the skin.

H. G. C. SWAYNE.

INDIA.—In British India there are three species of rhinoceros. In Assam and the Duars occurs the great Indian species (*Rhinoceros unicornis* or *R. indicus*), and also the Javan (*R. sondaicus*). Both these species are one-horned, but there is also the two-horned *R. sumatrensis*, which extends from Chittagong southwards to the Sundarbans, and is also found in Sumatra and Java, as well as in the Malay Peninsula. Its skin is as smooth as a buffalo's, but in habits and customs it much resembles the other species of the genus. In the Chittagong race of this rhinoceros the ears are fringed with long hairs. In the great Indian rhinoceros the horn is seldom eighteen inches long, generally a good deal less. The skin is very thick, with a deep fold at the setting on the head, another behind the shoulder, and a third in front of the thighs. There is a pair of large incisors in each jaw, with a pair of smaller intermediate ones below, and a pair of still smaller outside the upper incisors, the last not always present. The general colour is dusky black. The dimensions of one I killed were as follows. Extreme length of body, 12½ feet; tail 2 feet; height 6 feet 2 inches; horn 14 inches. These animals delight in swamps, lie up in mud holes, and frequent even running rivers. The Javan rhinoceros (*R. sondaicus*) I have shot on the left bank of the Brahmapootra river, but never came across it on the right bank, though doubtless it exists there too, as it is a wandering beast. In appearance it somewhat resembles the larger, but the folds are not so pronounced, and the shields are covered with small tubercles. It is said to be attracted by fire; the Burmese assert that it even devours it.

Although in their wild state I have seen elephants and rhinoceros feeding not far apart, yet these domestic slaves, when in captivity, fear the rhinoceros far more than they do a tiger. I have seen rhinoceros and buffaloes lying down in the same mud hole, with only a few yards between them.

These animals live in such remote localities that they are only disturbed now and then by some enterprising hunter. To find them in fairly open ground, the sportsman must be in their preserves at daybreak, for they soon retire into impenetrable thickets and lie up during the day. They are naturally timid, more anxious to escape than fight, and are far easier to kill than many other wild beasts, notwithstanding their hide. This, whilst on the animal, is easily penetrated, but if removed and dried in the sun, soon becomes very hard. Though the

INDIAN RHINOCEROS.

living hide is anything but impenetrable, to reach a vital spot a bullet has to pass through a mass of blubber, muscle, and bone. To hunt them successfully, large bores, hardened bullets, and fully five or six drachms of powder are requisite. If driven to bay after being wounded, a rhinoceros

will charge savagely. He does not use the horn for offensive purposes, but his incisors, which much resemble the tushes of a boar, though far thicker. If one of them can close, he will leave his marks for ever. I have seen an elephant's foot cut to the bone. The horns are but poor trophies, but the Assamese, Chinese, and Tibetans prize them greatly, and will give as much as forty-five rupees per *seer* (2 lb.) for them. Although many castes of Brahmins, Hindus, and Mawarries eschew all flesh, living on grain only, some of them make an exception in favour of the flesh of this pachyderm. I have been asked to dry the tongues for them, and these they pulverise, bottle, and indulge in a pinch or two if unwell. The Assamese prefer its flesh to all other, and used to follow me about like so many vultures. No sooner was the life of one extinct than they would rush, knife in hand, and not leave a scrap on the skeleton. Even the hide they roast and eat as we do the crackling of pig.

F. T. Pollok.

RIDING.—As this is hardly the place for any attempt to give details, I shall here limit myself to general principles, with the advice to readers, who wish to study the subject thoroughly, to consult the Bibliography at the end of the article.

As there are several kinds of riding which widely differ from each other in principles and practice, I shall consider the chief of them separately; but before doing so I wish to advance a plea for tolerance. We are all so enamoured of our own methods that, naturally, we are prone unduly to depreciate those of others. Hence the average English hunting man regards a French exponent of *l'équitation savante* with a self-satisfied air of superiority, if not of contempt, which is fully reciprocated; while a broncho buster, with equally bad reason, would look upon them both as duffers. Most men who have hunted much in the Shires know that the fact of a man being a brilliant steeplechase rider is not sufficient to enable him to get into the first flight out hunting, no matter how well he may be mounted. Again, very few of the best Australian steeplechase jockeys can sit a bad buckjumper successfully.

Different Systems of Riding.—The chief systems of riding practised in different parts of the world may be roughly enumerated as follows: (1) Ordinary riding (including riding to hounds); (2) rough riding; (3) high school riding; (4) military riding; and (5) ladies' riding.

General Principles.—The chief principle which governs all kinds of good riding is that the rider should as a rule ride by balance, and should reserve his or her powers of grip for those supreme moments when grip is indispensable for security of seat. This maxim is founded on the fact that grip can be obtained only by muscular contraction, and that muscles which continue in a state of contraction become very soon tired. The principle here enunciated has been followed from time immemorial by persons who, although they did not reason it out, recognise the fact that good horsemanship was incompatible with stiffness, which, in the rider, is obtained by muscular contraction. Another great principle is that the rider, when he wants to get the weight back, should do so by the play of the hip joints—thus bringing the upper part of the body to the rear—and not by sitting back in the saddle. In fact, one should always sit well forward in the saddle, and, if necessary, lean back. In all kinds of riding the reins should be held fairly long, so as to allow full freedom to the horse's head and neck without any risk of the rider

Snaffle Bit.

being pulled forward. A great number of bad riders have their reins far too short, with the object of holding on by the reins; the result being that they get pulled on to the horse's neck if the animal plays up. I need hardly say that the attainment of such a position is the usual preliminary to a fall. A lady's seat is generally so strong that many ladies, probably acting on the advice of their male friends, ride with too long reins.

Ordinary Riding.—The only kind of riding practised to any extent by civilians in England at present is that of the hunting field. Park riding is a thing of the past, and riding at polo may be classed as military riding, under which heading I shall consider it. In mounting, if a man is sufficiently tall, he should as a rule stand alongside the horse's near shoulder, should the reins be in his left hand, take hold of the mane about midway between the withers and the ears, face inwards and to the rear, take the near stirrup in the right hand, place the left foot in the stirrup, then put the right hand on the cantle and as far to the off side as he can reach; he should then raise himself by the spring of the right leg, pressure of the hands on respectively the crest and saddle, and as little as