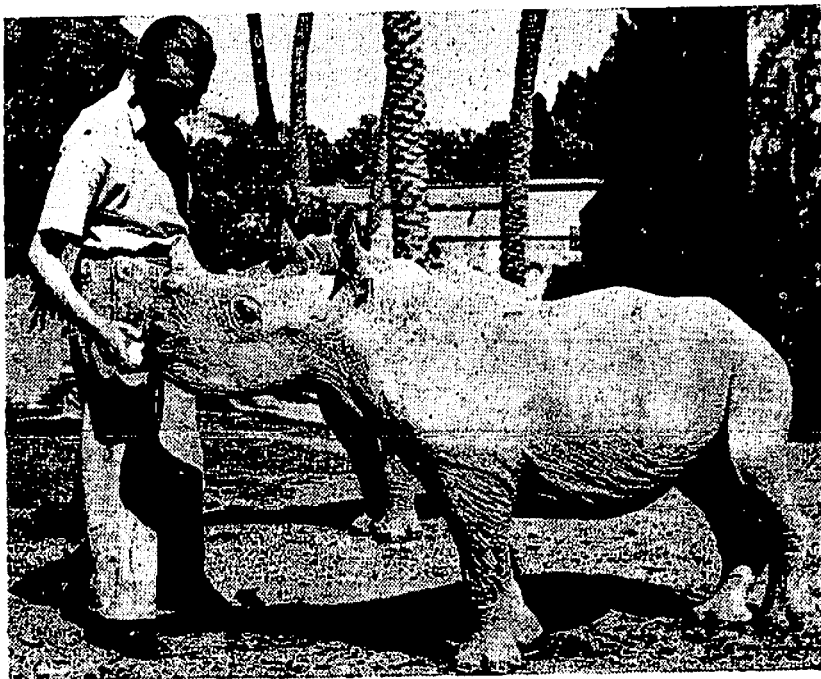




PAUL AND CHLOE, THE KHARTOUM ZOO'S TWO WHITE RHINOS



horns pointing in towards each other like the tail of a scorpion or the ends of a sergeant major's moustache.

I was therefore fired with interest when Mr. Wilkinson told me of the forest buffalo which he had hunted and shot in the thick gallery forests which abound along the Nile-Congo divide in Zande district on the Sudan's southern frontier, the haunt of the Bongo the rare silver-grey Situtunga and the Giant Forest Hog, lately shot there by Col. Forbes, the present Game Warden of the Sudan.

Whereas the common Sudan buffalo is black, and lives in grassy plains dotted with thick scrub and dense cane-brakes, the forest type lives in the darkest and most impenetrable jungle, is a ruddy brown in colour and has swept back horns which do not point their tips inwards towards each other.

The photographs which I have obtained show the distinction between the two which surely earns for the forest buffalo the dignity of a separate variety, even if its red colour can be found reproduced among its cousins who inhabit the more open parts of the country. But even in this respect it may be that Mr. Wilkinson has come upon something new, for he has lately observed 2 cows with 2 calves at foot whose colour he describes as "yellowish dun". He is keeping the latter under regular observation.

No claim whatever is made that the forest buffalo is new to science. Hunters have come to this part of the world to get a head and have got one without more than the ordinary difficulties which accompany a quest of this kind in dense forest and which the Bongo hunter must know well.

Yet it is strange that so clear a distinction as that shown in the photographs has not been noted by Brocklehurst or Chapman, who was never afraid of recording more than he had seen for himself. It would be interesting to hear the views of those who have hunted big game in the Sudan and who have come upon this variety themselves.

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