

A

NEW and ACCURATE
S Y S T E M
OF
NATURAL HISTORY;

CONTAINING

- I. The History of QUADRUPEDES, including Amphibious Animals, Frogs, and Lizards, with their Properties and Uses in Medicine.
- II. The History of BIRDS, with the Method of bringing up those of the singing Kind.
- III. The History of FISHES and SERPENTS, including Sea-Turtles, Crustaceous and Shell-Fishes; with their medicinal Uses.
- IV. The History of INSECTS, with their Properties and Uses in Medicine.
- V. The History of WATERS, EARTHS, STONES, FOSSILS, and MINERALS; with their Virtues, Properties, and Medicinal Uses: To which is added, the Method in which *Linnæus* has treated these Subjects.
- VI. The History of VEGETABLES, as well Foreign as Indigenous, including an Account of the Roots, Barks, Woods, Leaves, Flowers, Fruits, Seeds, Resins, Gums, and concreted Juices; as also their Properties, Virtues, and Uses in Medicine; together with the Method of cultivating those planted in Gardens.

By R. BROOKES, M. D.

Author of the *General Practice of Physic*.

In SIX VOLUMES.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. NEWBERRY, at the Bible and Sun, in
St. Paul's Church-Yard.

MDCCLXIII.

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CHAP. IX.

Of Anomalous Quadrupedes with regard to their
Hoofs.

I Am not ignorant that all cloven footed animals may properly be said to have four toes ; two before, and two behind on each foot ; but those behind are so small, that they are of little use to the animal either in treading, or walking, unless to hinder the feet from sliding ; so that those animals which may properly be said to be endowed with four toes, have them all placed forward, and not at a distance from each other, nor yet of a less sort.

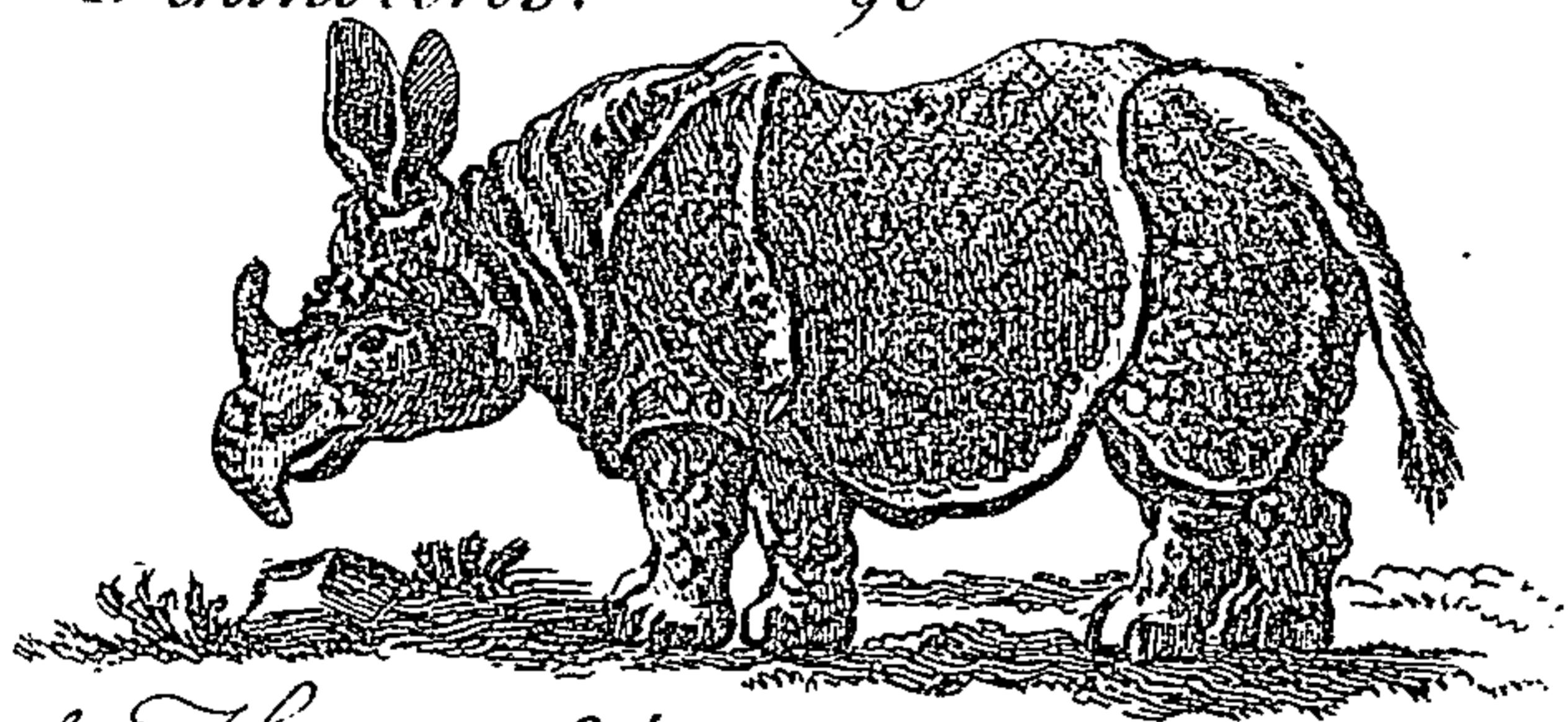
The animal called TAPIIERETE by *Marcgrau*, and which is to be found in *Brazil*, has a hoof not unlike that of a Rhinoceros, or an Elephant, but then he has only three toes before, and a little one on the heel. In other things he pretty much resembles the above animals ; and the same may be said of the Capy-Bara of the same author. 'Tis uncertain whether the musk animal ruminates or not ; however his toes on the hind part of the feet are larger and longer than in other cloven footed animals.

The RHINOCEROS has a body pretty near as large as an Elephant, but he has legs much shorter, and he has a horn on his snout or nose, which sufficiently distinguishes him from all other animals. The head is of a long make, having a hollow between the forehead and the horn ; and the snout seems designed to turn up the earth, in order to find out the roots of plants. It is very pliable, and ends in a point, which it can turn upwards, downwards, or sideways. The nostrils are placed on each side of it, and the lower lip is almost square, and flattish forwards, with the two corners appearing on the sides of a lively flesh colour. The Eyes are small, and placed pretty forward on each side of the head, and it has large ears in proportion, which stand erect

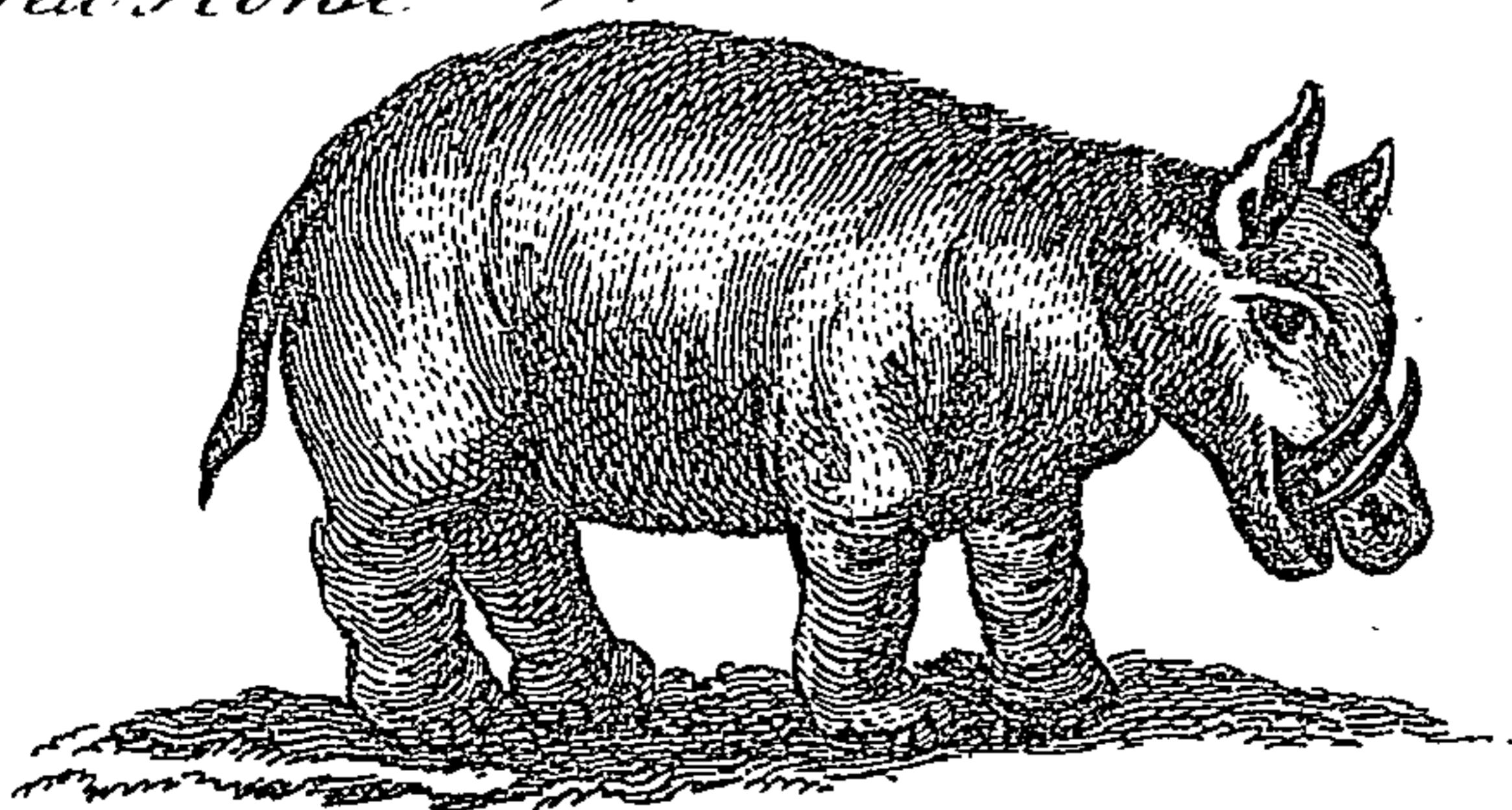
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erect on the top of the head. The whole animal is covered with a thick rough chapped skin of an ash colour, with plaits and folds in all such parts as are necessary to allow the creature motion, falling one over another backwards. But these plaits may be better seen in the figure than described by words. It has no knobs all over its body, as expressed in some figures, except on the hinder quarters which receive its weight when the animal first lies down, and there the knobs on the skin are very large.

The tail has a few black hairs at its end, and there are also a few scattered hairs on the ears; but on the other parts there is none. The back is hollow, and the belly sinks down pretty much. The feet are round behind, and the hoofs are forward, which are divided into three parts on each foot; but they have two little hoofs on the hinder part of the foot, as we see in Cows, Dcer, and Sheep.

I have lately seen a Rhinoceros here in *London*, whose horns were very short, and in every thing else agreed with the above description; however some authors of credit affirin, that these horns sometimes grow to the length of three feet. It is uncertain whether the Rhinoceros is a ruminating animal or not; but the negative is most probable.

The horn is different from all other animals we are acquainted with, and is not hollow on the inside but solid. He rolls himself in the dirt like a Hog, and the old ones are so strong they will toss up a large bull, as was seen in the amphitheatre at *Rome*.

The above species of Rhinoceroses are chiefly to be met with in the *East Indies*; but there is another kind with two horns, which are natives of *Africa*, and may be seen in plenty at the *Cape of Good Hope*. The colour of the skin of these is of a dark brown, approaching nearly to black, and is without hair. The skin is all covered with scars and scratches like those of an Elephant, and it is so tough and thick that it is hard to be pierced even with a pointed knife. The snout resembles that of a Hog, but is more pointed at the end. The horn on the nose is of a greyish brown, and is a little crooked, and turns up towards the head. It is

shaped like a plough share, and is of different sizes according to the age of the animal ; but never exceeds two feet. He has another on his forehead in a right line with that on the nose, which is of a yellowish colour, and a palm in length when the Rhinoceros is young, and never exceeds six inches when he is old. This second horn hinders the animal from doing all the mischief he otherwise might, because it serves in some measure to break the stroke of the other.

The legs are much shorter in proportion to that of the Elephant, and the eyes are so small that he can see nothing but what is directly before him, for this reason when he pursues his prey he always runs in a right line, overturning whatever lies in his way, for scarce any thing will stop his progress, or make him turn aside. With the horn on his nose he roots up trees, and lifts up the stones which oppose its passage, casting them at a great distance behind him. When he is in a rage he makes furrows in the ground, and throws a great deal of earth over his head. He grunts like a Hog, and may be heard at a great distance when he is in pursuit of his prey.

He very rarely attacks mankind unless he is provoked, or meets with a person with a red garment. When he attacks a man he lays hold of the middle of his body, and throws him over his head with such force that he is almost always killed with the fall ; this done he comes and licks him, and his tongue is so rough and hard that it brings off the flesh from the bones. He likewise serves other animals in the same manner after he has killed them. When he is seen running along it is pretty easy to avoid him, because he cannot turn about very readily, so that when he is about eight or ten feet distant, a man needs only go one side and then he will be out of his sight. This Mr. *Kolben* affirms from his own experience, and adds that he has escaped in this manner several times.

This animal does not feed upon grass but upon shrubs, thistles, and roots ; however those that are tame will feed upon hay, fruits, pulse, and almost every thing else that is given them, except flesh and fish. One of their keepers has affirmed, that they will eat

sixty pounds of hay in a day, and twenty of bread, and that they will drink fourteen buckets of water. They are very fond of the smoke of tobacco, and take a great pleasure in having it blown into their nostrils. In those countries where they breed they will devour the boughs of trees though they are never so full of thorns ; and sometimes indeed they will draw blood, but that does not cause them to leave off. In *Abyssinia* they not only eat the flesh of these animals, but they use them to work in the same manner as Elephants do in other countries. They are there fond of marshes, and rank grass, which they will eat like Oxen. Some say they are very fond of the water, and will dive like Ducks, and others that they will travel one hundred and fifty miles in a day, which does not seem very probable.

The horn of a female Rhinoceros that was at *Paris* was nine inches long, and the space between the horn and the ears measured fourteen inches ; and from the horn to the end of the muzzle was nine inches. The horn was of a whitish colour below, but towards the end was of a blackish brown, or of the same colour with the skin. It was not exactly round, but very thick, hard and crooked, turning towards the back. That of the male Rhinoceros is more long and thick than that of the female, being sometimes two feet long from the root, and about a foot in diameter. It is as hard as iron, and sharper than that of the female. However the horns are not always of the same colour, for they are sometimes black, sometimes ash coloured, and sometimes white ; and likewise their size differs according to their age. *Middleton* relates, that when he was at *Bombay*, he saw several of these horns that were longer than those he had seen elsewhere. One of these was composed of three little horns which proceeded from the same root, the longest of which was eighteen inches, the second twelve, and the third eight, but these were brought from other countries.

The flesh of this animal is eaten by the *Dutch* at the *Cape of Good Hope*, and is in high esteem. It has been usually said, that the horn of a Rhinoceros will fall in pieces when poison is poured therein. At the *Cape*

they have cups made of the horn, which are mounted in gold or silver. When wine is poured therein it will rise, ferment, and seem to boil, but when mixed with poison it cleaves in two; which experiment has been seen by thousands of people. The inhabitants of these parts will not believe those who affirm that a Rhinoceros has but one horn; likewise there are many people in other parts, that cannot be persuaded there is a race of these animals with two.

There is little said by authors of the medicinal virtues of the parts of a Rhinoceros; only that the horn is a great antidote against poison, but this opinion seems to be settled on no solid foundation.

Pg 90. The HIPPOPOTAMUS, or SEA HORSE, by some called a SEA ELEPHANT, is an animal which feeds upon grass on the banks of rivers; but frequently hides himself under water, where he will continue for some time. When he lifts his head out of the water he looks about every where to see if there is no danger, and he can smell a man at a considerable distance. If any thing frightens him he plunges into the water again, and will continue three hours longer without stirring, insomuch that a hunter who waits for him must be very patient till he rises a second time and shews his head. As soon as he begins to appear, the hunter must take his aim at the side of the head, but if he should chance to be seen by this animal he sinks in an instant. When he is killed in the water the blood will discover the place where he lies, and then with a boat, hooks, and cords, he is dragged to the bank. This done, they take off his skin, turn out his bowels, and throw him on a waggon to carry him home. His weight, when full grown, is from 2500 to 3000 pounds.

The Sea Horse for colour and shape resembles a Rhinoceros, only his legs are a little shorter. The head pretty much resembles that of a common Horse; but the mouth is much larger, as well as his nostrils. His ears and eyes are very small, and his legs short, gross, and of the same thickness from the top to the bottom. His Hoof is not cloven like that of an Ox, but is divided into four parts at the extremity, and on each