

THE JOURNAL OF THE DARJEELING NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY



VOL. IX.

No. 1.

Issued June 1934.

Edited by C. M. INGLIS, F.Z.S., F.R.E.S., B.E.M.B.O.U.

The Editor.

DEAR SIR,

With reference to the photograph of the young rhinoceroses which appeared in the Statesman of Sunday the 25th February 1934, it may be of interest, to the members of the Society, to learn how the one in the foreground happened to be caught and incidentally to lose her ear.

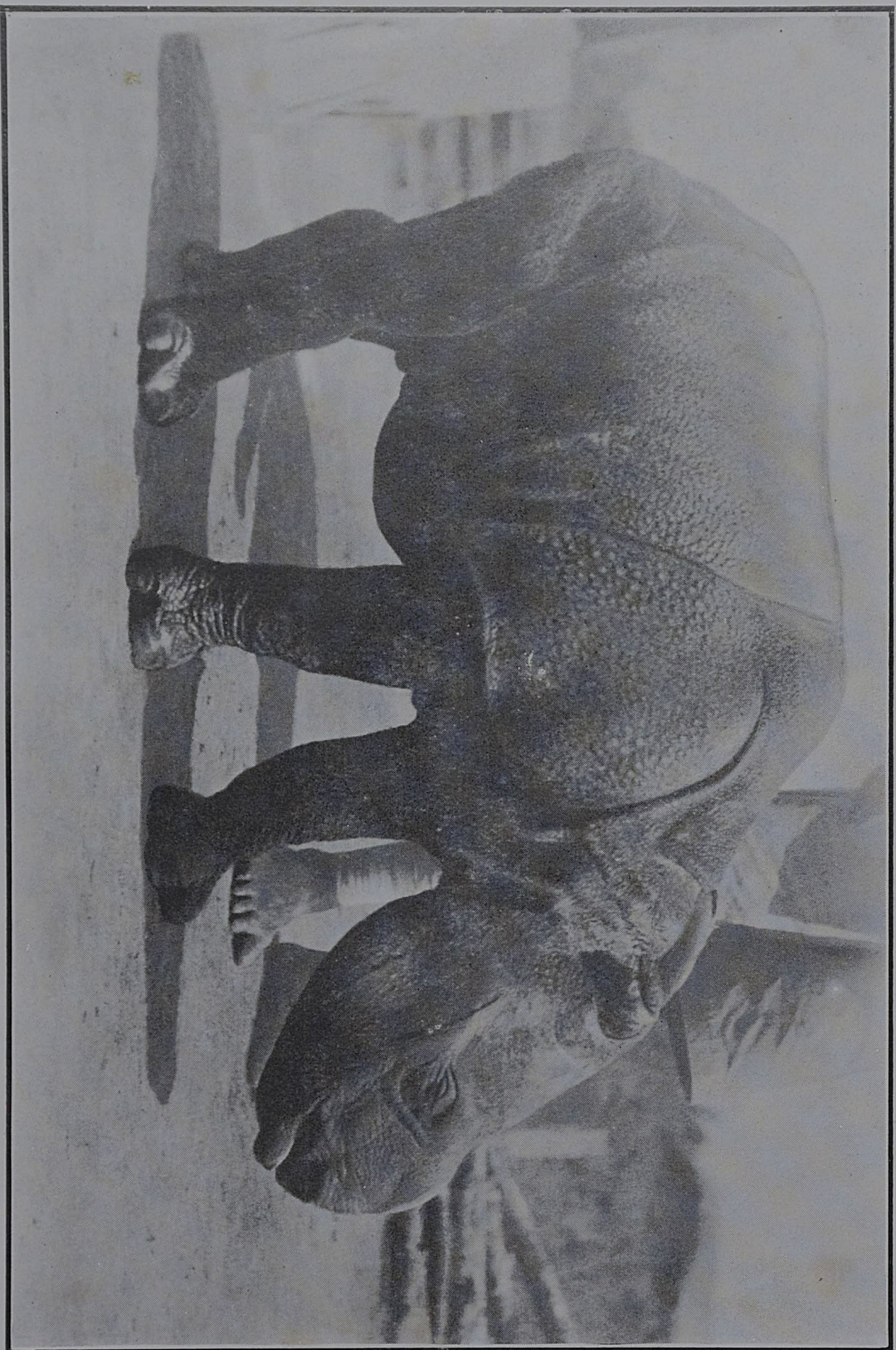
Sometime in August last some villagers near Ramshai saw an animal, which they took to be a pig, being carried down the Jaldacca, which was in flood. From humanitarian, if not culinary, reasons they plunged into the river, not without certain risk to their lives, and rescued the beast.

To their astonishment and, possibly, disappointment they found that the animal was not a pig.

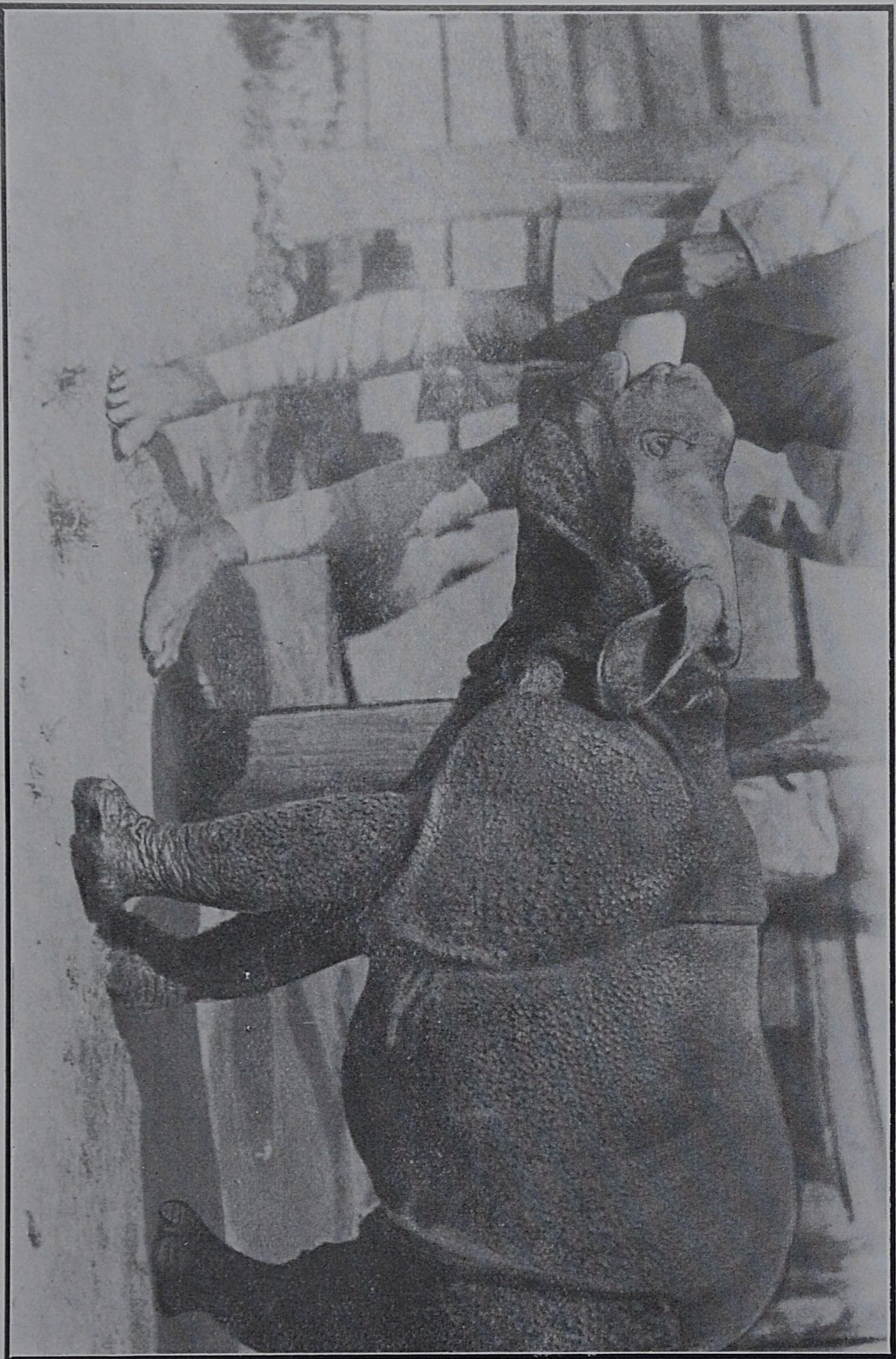
In due course the animal was handed over to the Forester at Ramshai when it was found that in addition to being half drowned, the little beast had been badly mauled by a tiger, one ear being very badly injured, besides which there were several other very nasty wounds.

She did not appear to resent her rescue and soon showed that she realized that anything out of a bottle was worth risking and proceeded to absorb from 12 to 15 seers of milk per day. This was administered in doses of three or four whisky bottles full at a time, every three or four hours.

Her wounds yielded to treatment with the exception of the damaged ear which eventually had to be amputated, but the operation in no way affected her appetite and she remained on the milk diet until November, when it was decided that she would be better looked after in the Calcutta Zoo, she was then put on to a diet of bottled rice, ghur and milk with which to wash it down.



INDIAN GREAT ONE-HORNED RHINOCEROS CALF.



INDIAN GREAT ONE-HORNED RHINOCEROS CALF.

Shortly after this she passed from my keeping, as I was transferred to another Division, I parted from her with regret as she was a most affectionate little creature, particularly if you happened to have a bottle of milk in your hand.

Like most other youngsters her table manners were deplorable, but it is hoped that as she gets older this will be remedied.

I enclose a couple of photographs taken when she was about six weeks old, one showing her damaged ear and the other absorbing a little nourishment.

W. E. HODGE, I.F.S.