

The  
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of  
Sport & Games

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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 horse-back. 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 rotary 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 bird. 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 rhino-

ceros 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.

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 2½ 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



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

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,