

but did not complete a nest. The probable cause was that the material available was not proper to their taste and requirements. However, the second year I obtained a good supply of fibrous roots, fibre from an old cocoanut carpet, and horse-hair. With this they built a perfect nest and reared two broods of five each. The greenfinches (*Loxia chloris*), likewise, were only a few months old when placed in captivity, and in the following season, when just about a year old, they nested, but from some cause failed to bring off their young. Nor did they do so in captivity. This was a matter which I never could explain, as all other birds were more successful. Probably there was some necessary element missing from the food. A pair of chaffinches (*Fringilla colebs*) nested about the same time as the bullfinches and at about the same age. There was a difficulty in finding suitable material for these birds, and no headway was made in their work until a few handfuls of lichen had been placed at their disposal. A pair of redpoles, too, were successful in starting a home in my aviary. I believe the male was several years old at the time of capture, but the hen had traces of her first coat. The aviary was outside with no boxes or covering except faggots of bushwood for the birds to roost and nest in; the food was mixed seeds and weeds such as groundsel, plantain, etc., that the conditions would be as nearly as possible natural; so that I think it would be correct to say that these four birds—bullfinch, greenfinch, chaffinch and redpole—will breed when a year old.—WILLIAM BELL.

THE BREEDING OF HUNTERS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I have read with great interest Lord Willoughby de Broke's article in your number of October 14th on breeding hunters, but I do not consider that he has suggested how it should be done. He mentions Mr. Hope-Brook's plan of creating a breed by mating a Clydesdale stallion with a thorough-bred mare and crossing the progeny thus got. This, I have no doubt, would produce quite a useful horse; but I very much doubt it eventually turning out what we want, which is a sound sire up to at least fifteen stone, that would get hunters and Army remounts up to fourteen stone or more. To do this the Government for the sake of getting really good remounts that would provide our Cavalry with suitable horses must start a stud farm and book. This must be done by purchasing the six most suitable thorough-bred sires regardless of expense, also at least a hundred absolutely sound, well-bred mares from four to eight years old; their progeny to be kept till they are four years old (all the colts uncut), then use the best of them on the best of the fillies. They will then in a few years time have a number of stallions of correct type to spare that they can place all over the country, instead of the very inferior "Premium" horses that one saw at Islington. I have talked the matter over with many farmers, both large and small, who now do little or nothing in the way of light-horse breeding on account of its unremunerativeness, and they have all said they would go in for it if they

a new stamp of horse, with more size and bone than the thorough-bred of the present day. To do this it will take a good many years and not be an undertaking that the Treasury will reap a direct profit by for several years, though, I take it, thousands and thousands are wasted every year for little or no reason at all. Great care would have to be taken in the selection of the original mares, and who ever bought them should be empowered to give up to one hundred and fifty pound each and, as far as possible, to select those that had no direct cross of cart or hackney blood—i.e., no half-bred mares.—FRANK KELSALL PETO, Dursley, Gloucestershire.

A GOAT AND A RHINOCEROS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I am sending you two interesting drawings taken in the Zoological



IN THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS AT GIZA, EGYPT.

Gardens at Giza, near Cairo. The rhinoceros is about a year old, and travelled down from the Soudan in company with the goat, to whom it has become devotedly attached. The two are never parted, and when the rhinoceros lies down the goat frequently mounts on to its head and rests there, to the satisfaction of both parties.—NELLIE HADDEN.



A YEARLING RHINOCEROS AND A GOAT.

only could get a really well-bred sire up to fifteen stone. In course of time, farmers would be able to get mares entered in the Stud Book as well, and by mating them with sires placed by Government in the district, they would be able to breed horses of the desired type as easily and profitably as they now do short-horns or Down sheep. As Army remounts and hunters are bred now, it is impossible to make it pay, as at least two out of every three are good for nothing but a baker's cart, as they inherit a predominance of the bad points of sire as well as dam. This chance work would be done away with by having a pedigree animal of correct type on both sides, but to get this you must breed

concealing the bait among the weeds. My stay at Filey was too short for me to venture to be dogmatic, but the fact remains that using float tackle as described, a light rod, small reel and comparatively fine line, I managed to get fish quite as easily as the anglers who used the conventional East Coast equipment. I would therefore suggest that fishermen who chance to visit Filey this autumn should try my method, which is at all events much more interesting owing to the lighter gear. I found also that the codling took my mussel quite close in, and that there seemed to be no necessity for casts of more than thirty yards at most.—FLEUR-DE-LYS.

SEA-FISHING ON A WEEDY BOTTOM.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—While on a short visit to Filey I was much interested in the methods of Yorkshire salt-water anglers. They use very powerful stiff rods, with pulley rings the whole way along, while the usual size of their big Nottingham reels is about seven inches in diameter. The drum is, however, made narrow, with large holes bored through it, so as to save weight as far as possible. Such enormous reels are quite unnecessary as far as making long casts is concerned, and I have noticed that our South Coast pier anglers get out just as far with their much smaller reels. The bottom round Filey Brig is very foul, being all rough rock and seaweed, consequently it is a common affair to get hung up and lose one's hook and paternoster lead. From experiments I made I am convinced that fishing with a paternoster at all from the Brig is a mistake. I used a large cork float with two hooks twenty inches to two feet apart, the bottom hook being at such distance from the float that it just touched the seaweed. I then found that the codling generally took the bait on the upper hook, showing that when foraging round the rocks they swim well above the weeds. When a paternoster is used, besides the bother of continually getting hung up, one is burying and