

that the ancients had no knowledge of them, and perhaps if they had they would not have distinguished them.

The hippopotamus has not been so well described as the preceding species; but we find very exact delineations of it on the monuments left by the Romans, which represent things relative to Egypt, such as the statue of Nilus, the Mosaic of Palestrina, and a great many medals. In fact, the Romans saw them often, they were exhibited by Scaurus, Augustus, Antoninus, Commodus, Heliogabalus, Philip and Carinus. (1)

The two species of camels, that of Bactria, and that of Arabia, are already well described and characterized by Aristotle. (2) The ancients knew the giraffe or camel-leopard; they even had a living one at Rome in the circus under the dictatorship of Julius Cæsar, in the year of Rome 708. Gordian III. had ten at one time, which were killed at the secular games of Philip, (3) which must astonish the moderns, who have only seen one in the fifteenth century. (4)

If we read attentively the descriptions of the hippopotamus, given by Herodotus and Aristotle, and which are said to be borrowed from Hecataeus of Miletus, we shall find that they must have been composed of two different animals, of which one perhaps was the real hippopotamus, and the other certainly the gnu, a quadruped of which our naturalists have made no mention till the end of the

(1) See vol. i. of my Researches, chapter on the hippopotamus.

(2) His. Anim. lib. ii. c. 1.

(3) Jul. Capit. Gord. III. cap. 23.

(4) That which the sultan of Egypt sent to Lorenzo de Medicis, and which is painted in the frescoes of Poggio Cajano.