

The Unicorn is the Rhinoceros, sketched thus from report ; but the Narwhal's tusk having come to hand as the Unicorn's horn, it was placed on the forehead of the animal, in the drawings, and the beast still wears it in our Royal Arms.\* There is the germ of truth in the case of the Narwhal's tusk, that the tusk grows without a fellow on the animal's head ; no doubt it was this fact that led to the blunder. Marco Polo was astonished to find how different the real Unicorn was from the pictures of it which he had been accustomed to see.

The Japanese dealers in carved ivories at Kioto, who speak a few words of English, draw attention to "netskis" cut out of Narwhal ivory, as made from "Unicorn." I suppose this is a survival of an old European term for the tusk, derived from the Portuguese.

The Dragon, however, seems to have had a different mode of origin, and to have sprung from the finding together in a fossil deposit of the bones of various animals, and the inference, that because they were found together they belonged to one animal. An attempt at reconstruction produced the Dragon, and this accounts for the animal possessing stags' horns and carnivorous teeth, and containing in its structure a little of everything.

My friend, Mr. C. V. Creagh, of Hong Kong, kindly translated for me an account of the Dragons' bones and teeth given in a well-known Chinese work, "The Botanical and Medical Works of Li She Chan," sometimes called "Li Poon Woo," Vol. XLIII. I give the account here because it is amusing in many ways as a sample of a Chinese medical work, and seems to bear out the above conjecture as to the origin of the Dragon, or of part of the animal's structure at least.

Translation. "Dragon's bones come from the southern part of Shansi, and are found on the mountains. Dr. To Wang King, says that if they are genuine they will adhere to the tongue. He informs us that the bones are cast off by the Dragon. Dr. So Tsung says, that in the autumn a certain fish changes itself into a Dragon, and leaves its original bones, which are of five different colours, and are used by men as medicine. In Shanshi is the Dragon-gate, through which when the fish leaps it becomes a Dragon.

"Dr. Kai Tsung Shik says, that it is well known that the

\* "The Book of Ser Marco Polo," Vol. II., p. 273. Col. H. Yule, C.B. London, Murray, 1875.

The last attempt to resuscitate the heraldic Unicorn, and prove its actual existence as such, was made in 1852, by Baron J. W. von Müller, "Das Einhorn vom geschichtlichen und naturwissenschaftlichen Standpunkte betrachtet." Stuttgart, 1852.