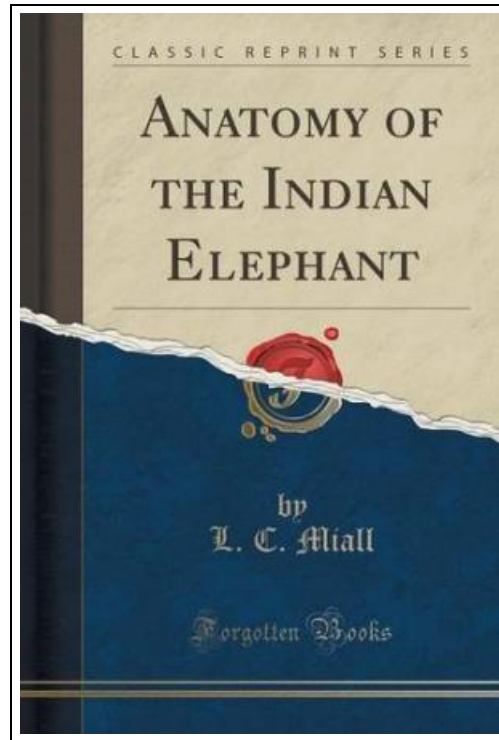


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(Gavin Bosco IV)

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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Anatomy of the Indian Elephant Whenever the comparative anatomy of mammalia shall be exhaustively treated, the structure of the existing species of elephants will claim a principal share of attention. They are so distinctly separated from other quadrupeds that an order is required for their sole reception. Yet, though isolated from all other existing species, they bear marks of affinity with more than one group, particularly with Ungulata, Sirenia, and Rodentia. This fact of recent zoology suggests a view which the history of extinct mammalia seems to justify, viz., that the elephants constitute a comparatively primitive type, representing, though perhaps not directly, a now extinct central group, from which the orders above mentioned, and possibly some others, may have been derived. The African and Indian elephants are further remarkable as the largest land quadrupeds now living; nor can the paleontologist, reviewing the land quadrupeds of all past times, so far as they are yet made known, find a trace of any larger form which is not also an elephant. Hence arise some curious physiological and mechanical questions to the student of elephant anatomy. What are the special modifications implied by a weight of perhaps three tons? How nearly do the existing species approach the limits of size fixed by mechanical laws and by the physical properties of animal tissues? It would be an interesting task to investigate such problems as these, and to discuss the many points of anatomy, morphology, physiology, and paleontology suggested by the examination of a dead elephant. Our immediate purpose is less ambitious. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at This...



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