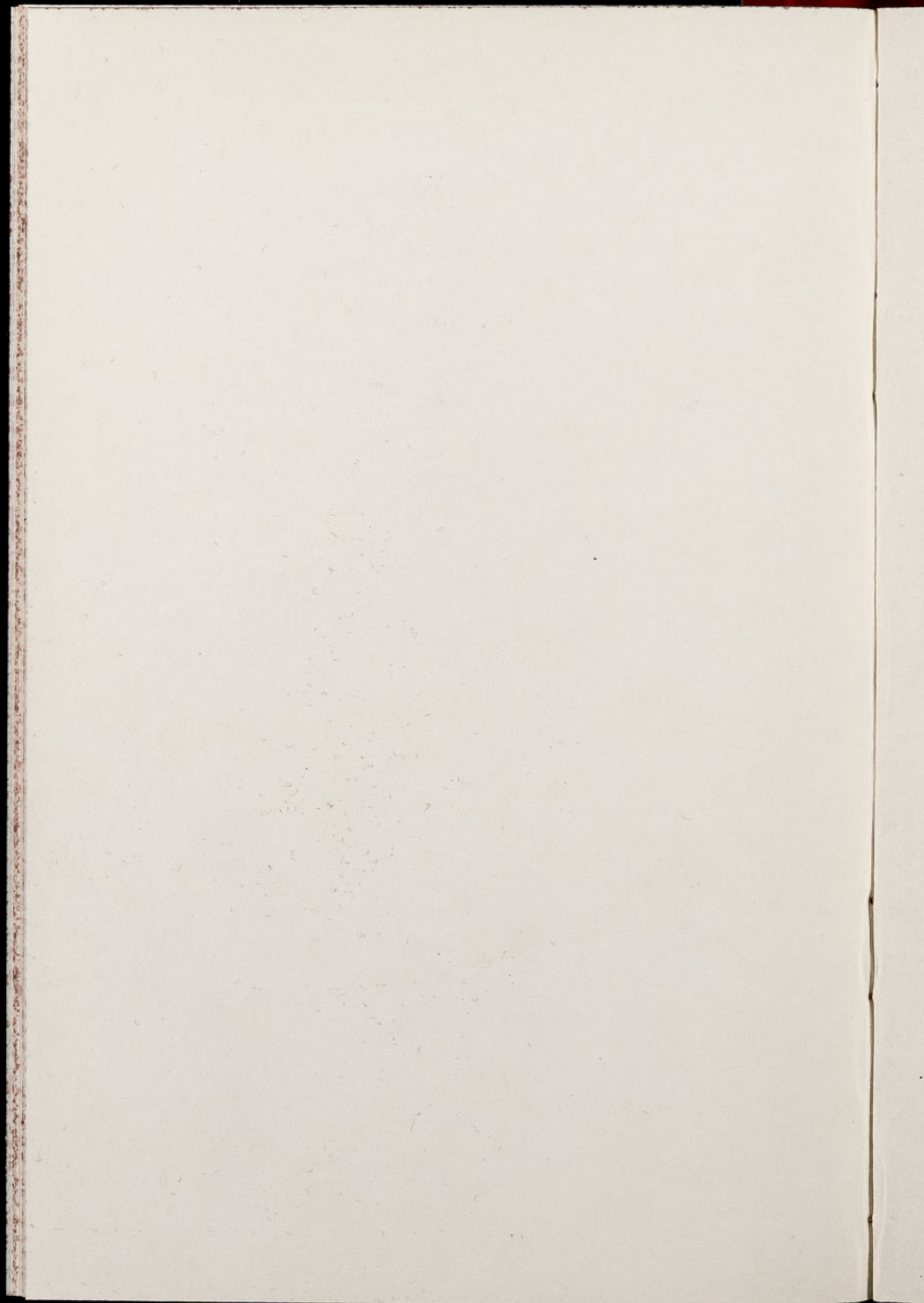




**CHESTER ZOO NEWS
AND GUIDE**

August 1968

Price 1/-



The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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CONTENTS:

<i>page two</i>	News from various sections.
<i>page four</i>	Arrivals and births.
<i>page five</i>	Otter and Penguin Area.
<i>page six</i>	Aquarium News.
<i>page eight/nine</i>	Zoo Guide.
<i>page ten</i>	Ape Nursery under construction, Pigmy Hippos.
<i>page twelve</i>	Bird Notes.
<i>page sixteen</i>	Garden Notes.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

<i>page three</i>	Mountain Gorilla.
<i>page seven</i>	Otter and Penguin Area.
<i>page eleven</i>	Orang-utan 'Rajang'.
<i>page thirteen</i>	Pigmy Hippo.
<i>page fifteen</i>	Kookaburra and chicks.

COVER: *This month's cover photograph shows a Grevy's Zebra with four day old foal.*

By Courtesy of S. W. Jacobsen (Liverpool Daily Post)

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NEWS FROM VARIOUS SECTIONS

Work is progressing rapidly on the construction of the new Ape House, close to the North Entrance to the Zoo. We originally called this an Orang-utan House but it will be so large it will have to accommodate Gorillas as well as Orangs and therefore we will call it the Ape House. Our Lowland Gorillas will definitely have to occupy an enclosure in this new house as the accommodation in the Tropical House, at present used by the large Orang-Utans, was originally meant for them. This enclosure will now be needed for our female Mountain Gorilla whom we strongly suspect of being pregnant.

The Mountain Gorillas' coats have improved tremendously since they were transferred to the Tropical House. The spray which comes on automatically indoors has been extremely beneficial to them but even so they like to spend a large amount of their time on the island. Like all the other apes, the Mountain Gorillas appear to be extremely fond of eating grass; they can often be seen chewing away and thoroughly enjoying an armful of grass.

The Amur Leopard cub born on the 9th June is now starting to venture into the outside enclosure, where he can be viewed by members of the public. The Amur Leopard is extremely rare and we are very pleased with the progress this animal is making.

The female baby born to Chimpanzee 'Julie' is now going outside onto the chimp islands. She is now 10 months old and very lively and playful. Also to be seen in the Ape House is our other young chimp 'Wilson' who is now six months old. He is not yet venturing outside but can be viewed in the indoor exercise yards where he is proving a great attraction to visitors.

The Cacomistle has been transferred from the Nocturnal House to the Small Mammal House. The Asiatic Ground Squirrels and a Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel have been transferred to the Nocturnal House. We felt that the squirrels would make a better show in the Nocturnal section and the Cacomistle has more space in the Mammal House.



Mr. and Mrs. E. Sorby

"MUKISI", MALE MOUNTAIN GORILLA

'Thamooda', the Arabian Gazelle was hand reared by her keeper, Pam Logan, last year, but as we mentioned in last month's magazine, she has become too robust for her previous accommodation next to the Sun Bears, so she has been transferred to the Gazelle pens at the rear of the Monkey House.

The Zebras look extremely well on the new paddock which was constructed during last winter or rather was re-fenced as mentioned in a previous '*Chester Zoo News*'. The old wire fence has been replaced by an Aha and the appearance it gives to the paddock enhances the display a hundredfold. The old winter shelter has been completely re-built, providing more light and ventilation.

We are hoping very shortly that we will be able to continue the same kind of fencing along the front of our Lechwe paddocks and also the adjoining Fallow Deer paddock.

At the rear of our Cat House a large field which has been used to accommodate our Ankole Cattle is to be divided up into smaller paddocks and these will be used for several of the species of antelope which we have in reserve. The Blesbok for instance will soon be coming out of quarantine and will be in need of an enclosure.

We are very happy to say that with the change in the weather in the middle of July, the Zoo has gradually recovered after the violent storms at the beginning of that month. Despite the battering the gardens received during the early part of July, they seem to have fully recovered and the floral display is very attractive.

ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

A Grevy's Zebra has been born but we regret to say it is another male. His photograph can be seen on this month's cover. It is strange how the males predominate at certain times particularly now as we are wanting as many females as possible, due to the restrictions on the importation of Zebras from Africa. We are happy to say the foal is doing very well and makes a very attractive exhibit with its mother.

We have bred many Zebra at the Zoo, but they have been mainly the Grant's Zebra of which we have a nice herd; unfortunately we had the misfortune to lose our stock stallion almost two years ago and we have only now acquired, on loan, another stallion for our mares. This stallion is of Chester stock, but there is only one mare to which he is in any way related. We have a younger stallion but it will be another year or two before he will be suitable to serve the mares.

A Highland calf has been born and brings our total of these animals to six. Although they are domestic animals their long hair and curved horns arouse much interest among the visitors.

The roadway to the Llama Pens was cordoned off recently due to the birth of a Llama. The pathway is again open but we felt that the youngster would stand more chance of survival if the crowds were excluded from the vicinity. This year we have bred two Llamas and they certainly seem to be thriving in the new quarters specially constructed for them.

Perhaps the most interesting new arrival during the past month was a nine year old female Chimpanzee called 'Linda'. This animal has been kept as a family pet and is fairly intelligent. Fortunately she has taken very kindly to Bimbo, one of our male Chimpanzees.

Two male Nilghai were received from Edinburgh Zoo and they are now on show in one of the paddocks adjoining the Zebra enclosure. The Nilghai is the largest of the Indian Antelopes and the name means 'Blue Cow'. However, the female Nilghai has a brown coat but adult males have a definite bluish tinge.

OTTER AND PENGUIN AREA

As mentioned in the June issue of '*Chester Zoo News*' the Rockhopper Penguins and Oriental Small-clawed Otters have been transferred to new accommodation between the Flamingo enclosure and the Sealion Pool. The photograph on the top half of page 7 was taken looking towards the covered portion which contains the underwater viewing tanks for both species. The outside accom-

modation for the Penguins is just out of view to the left of the picture but is fundamentally the same as the otter side, with a large pool, waterfall and water slide. The Otters have been observed in the viewing tank several times recently and seem to enjoy playing about in the water. The Penguins often enter their tank, despite the fact that they are moulting heavily at the moment.

In the photograph on the lower half of page 7 the Rockhopper Penguins can be seen on the rockwork of their new enclosure over the nesting caves where we hope the birds will breed in the future.

This new area is proving most popular and the stonework is weathering gradually.

AQUARIUM NEWS

Interesting new arrivals in the Aquarium are Mudskippers — a species found in tropical brackish waters, especially in the vicinity of mangrove swamps. This species can travel overland using the pectoral fins and also can leap into the air. To reconstruct their natural environment as closely as possible, their tank consists of half water and half rocks; they can, therefore, drag themselves out onto the rocks whenever they want to do so. In the wild state Mudskippers feed to a large extent on young fiddler crabs; at the Zoo we feed a diet of whiteworms, daphnia and flies.

Recent hatchings included Angel Fish, a commonly exhibited fish, but one which is not too easy to breed in captivity. The eggs are spawned on broad leaved plants and they are cared for and continually fanned with water by both parents. The young are chewed out of the eggshell by the parents, and then hang from the leaves by a short thread. Later they are led down to shallow pits and start to swim when 4 to 5 days old.

A pair of Marbled Cichlids have been separated from the others and placed in a tank of their own in an effort to breed this attractive fish found in South America.

Latest arrivals in the Aquarium are Dwarf Cichlids — a species about 1½ inches long which is found in South East Asia.



J. Whitworth

PENGUIN AND OTTER AREA SHOWING OTTER ACCOMMODATION



J. Whitworth

ROCKHOPPER PENGUINS

GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

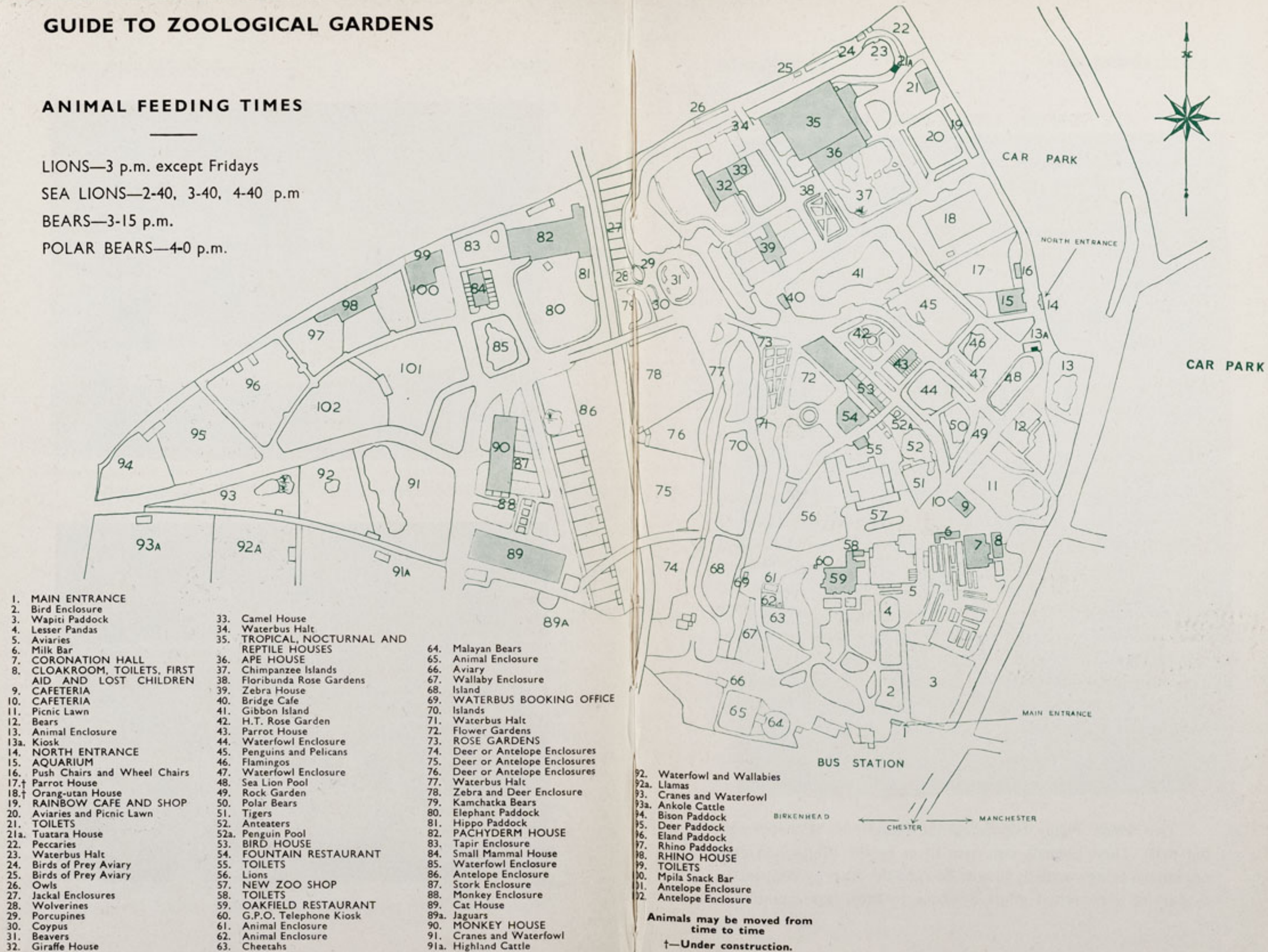
ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

SEA LIONS—2-40, 3-40, 4-40 p.m.

BEARS—3-15 p.m.

POLAR BEARS—4-0 p.m.



1. MAIN ENTRANCE
2. Bird Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Lesser Pandas
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS, FIRST AID AND LOST CHILDREN
9. CAFETERIA
10. CAFETERIA
11. Picnic Lawn
12. Bears
13. Animal Enclosure
- 13a. Kiosk
14. NORTH ENTRANCE
15. AQUARIUM
16. Push Chairs and Wheel Chairs
17. Parrot House
18. Orang-utan House
19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP
20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
21. TOILETS
- 21a. Tuatara House
22. Peccaries
23. Waterbus Halt
24. Birds of Prey Aviary
25. Birds of Prey Aviary
26. Owls
27. Jackal Enclosures
28. Wolverines
29. Porcupines
30. Coypus
31. Beavers
32. Giraffe House

33. Camel House
34. Waterbus Halt
35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES
36. APE HOUSE
37. Chimpanzee Islands
38. Floribunda Rose Gardens
39. Zebra House
40. Bridge Cafe
41. Gibbon Island
42. H.T. Rose Garden
43. Parrot House
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Penguins and Pelicans
46. Flamingos
47. Waterfowl Enclosure
48. Sea Lion Pool
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Tigers
52. Anteaters
- 52a. Penguin Pool
53. BIRD HOUSE
54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT
55. TOILETS
56. Lions
57. NEW ZOO SHOP
58. TOILETS
59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT
60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk
61. Animal Enclosure
62. Animal Enclosure
63. Cheetahs

64. Malayan Bears
65. Animal Enclosure
66. Aviary
67. Wallaby Enclosure
68. Island
69. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE
70. Islands
71. Waterbus Halt
72. Flower Gardens
73. ROSE GARDENS
74. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
75. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
76. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
77. Waterbus Halt
78. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
79. Kamchatka Bears
80. Elephant Paddock
81. Hippo Paddock
82. PACHYDERM HOUSE
83. Tapir Enclosure
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Antelope Enclosure
87. Stork Enclosure
88. Monkey Enclosure
89. Cat House
- 89a. Jaguars
90. MONKEY HOUSE
91. Cranes and Waterfowl
- 91a. Highland Cattle

92. Waterfowl and Wallabies
- 92a. Llamas
93. Cranes and Waterfowl
- 93a. Ankole Cattle
94. Bison Paddock
95. Deer Paddock
96. Eland Paddock
97. Rhino Paddocks
98. RHINO HOUSE
99. TOILETS
100. Mpila Snack Bar
101. Antelope Enclosure
102. Antelope Enclosure

Animals may be moved from time to time
 †—Under construction.

APE NURSERY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

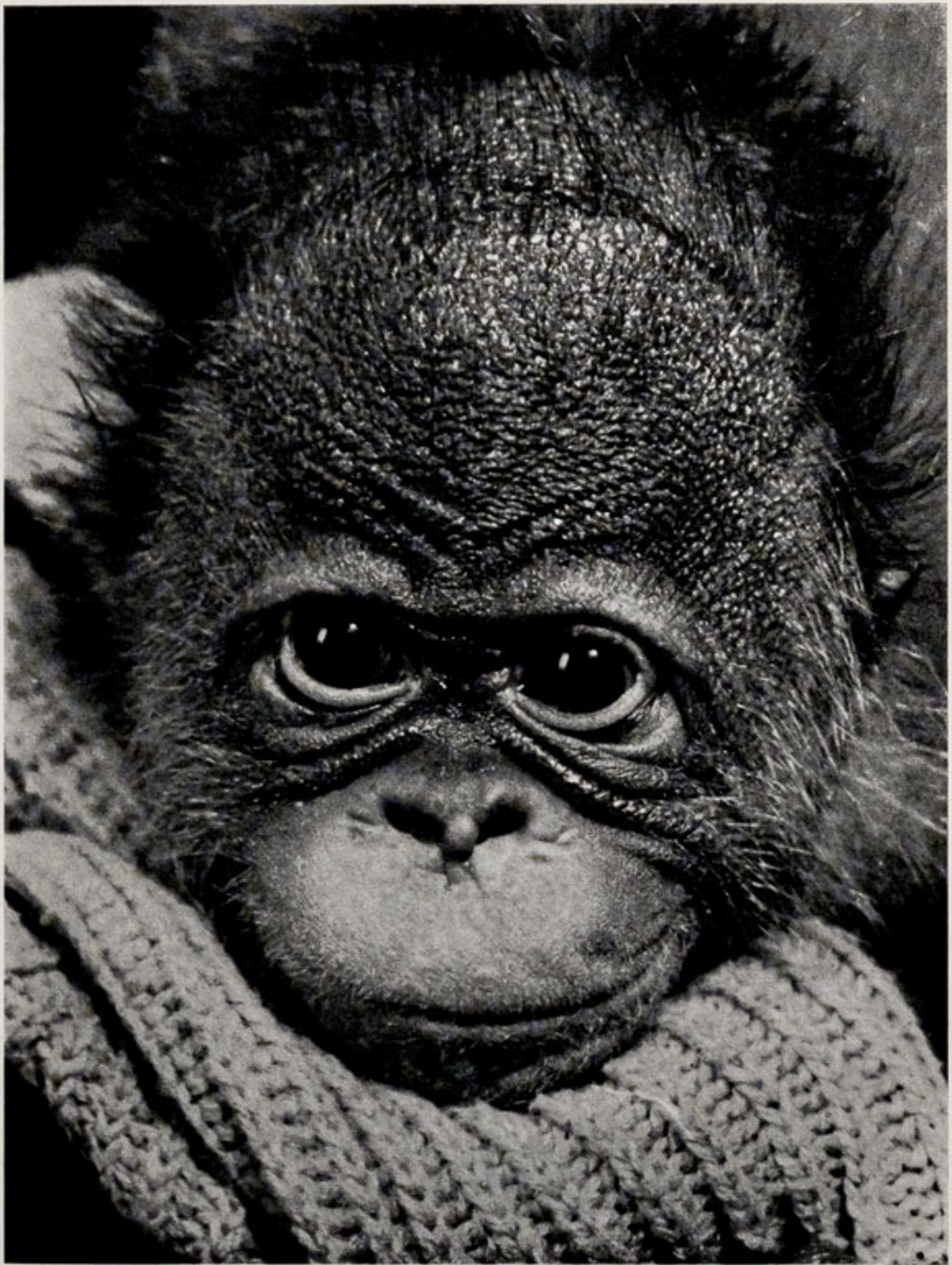
From time to time Chimpanzee and Orang-utan babies have been born at the Zoo and deserted by their mothers; these orphans have been taken home by members of staff and hand-reared. Unfortunately, members of the public have been unable to view these youngsters until they were about a year old and were returned to the Zoo.

At the time of writing a nursery is being constructed close to the entrance of the Bird House, to accommodate these orphans. This building is of wood and measures 13ft. by 8ft., and the animals will be viewed through two picture windows of insulated glass. This type of glass is being used to prevent the young apes from catching a chill by contact with the cold glass, which could happen if conventional plate-glass was used.

'Rajang', the young Orang-utan deserted by his mother and being hand reared by the Curator and his wife, is progressing satisfactorily. If the photograph on page 11 is compared with that on last month's cover, a good deal of change can be noticed. 'Rajang' now weighs 9lbs. 4ozs. compared with 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. one month ago and he is taken up to the new nursery for a few hours each day. Of course he will have to return to the Curator's home at night as he requires regular feeding and constant attention. We hope to include more photographs of 'Rajang' in subsequent issues of '*Chester Zoo News*' to illustrate his progress and to form a record of the development of an Orang-utan.

PIGMY HIPPOS

Two female Pigmy Hippos arrived recently to be mated with our male. These animals were sent to us by the Whipsnade Zoo, one animal being owned by Prague Zoo and the other by Whipsnade, as part of a concerted effort by Zoos to breed rare animals in



K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

ORANG-UTAN "RAJANG" WHEN 3 WEEKS OLD

captivity; this has been dubbed the 'lonely heart club for animals'. Although previously animals have been exchanged for breeding purposes it is intended to do more of this in the future. Rare animals are generally difficult to obtain and consequently very expensive, with the result that a smaller Zoo cannot afford a pair and large Zoos have difficulties obtaining specimens.

We have had a pair of Pigmy Hippos at Chester Zoo for some time now. 'Max', the male arrived during 1963, and 'Phyllis' his mate, during 1956. It was hoped that they would breed but this has not been the case. With the introduction of the two new specimens we hope to obtain better results. 'Phyllis' became very jealous of the new arrivals and in fact attacked 'Max'. At the time of writing 'Max' and the two newcomers are together and happy, but 'Phyllis' refuses to have anything to do with them.

The Pigmy Hippos can be seen in the Tropical House where they have two spacious heated pools; they also have a large outside paddock adjoining the Tropical House. A recent innovation has been to fence off a portion of the Waterbus Lake to act as a pool for them whilst out of doors.

Pigmy Hippos (*Choeropsis liberiensis*) are indigenous to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and as their name implies are very small compared with the common Hippopotamus. A Pigmy Hippo weighs about 400lbs. and is 2ft. 6in. high at the shoulder, whereas a Common Hippo weighs up to 4 tons and is 5ft. high at the shoulder.

BIRD NOTES

Some Laysan Teal (*Anas platyrhynchos laysanensis*) have been presented to the collection and are accommodated on the Mandarin Pond. These welcome new arrivals have settled down well in this enclosure which they share with other species of waterfowl.

The Laysan Teal is a small species of duck which is found only on Laysan Island, a three-mile long island in the Pacific Ocean. They were reduced in numbers by hunting at the beginning of the century until in 1919 only six specimens remained. The situation has



PIGMY HIPPO

K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

improved in recent years and this species is now more often kept and bred in captivity.

The two long Rainbow Flight aviaries accommodate a wide variety of species from Parrakeets and Pigeons to Pheasants and Weavers. Two species of Pheasants, the Silver and the Golden, have young, which are thriving. Pheasant chicks are extremely attractive despite the fact that the cock Pheasant is more beautifully coloured, which tends to detract from his more soberly-coloured offspring.

Four young Barraband Parrakeets recently left their nest box. These are very attractive birds and occupy the first aviary of the Temperate Bird House where they have indoor and outdoor quarters. The young Barraband Parrakeets resemble the female bird which is predominately green-coloured; the male is green with yellow facial markings and a red band on the chest.

Two Kookaburra chicks have left the nesting log in the Temperate Bird House. They are exact replicas of their parents, but of course a good deal smaller. This species has been bred in this country on only rare occasions and we are extremely pleased to report this breeding success. The Kookaburra is found in many areas of Australia and is known by a variety of names including Laughing Kingfisher, Laughing Jackass and Settlers Clock. These names are largely derived from this bird's extraordinary laughing call note which is most often uttered during early mornings and at sunset. Our Kookaburras often give voice to their laughing cry at feeding time.

The White-crested Laughing Jay-Thrush has been liberated within the confines of the Temperate Bird House. Previously this species shared an aviary with our Hunting Cissa, a bird which resembles the Magpie but is a bright green colour.



KOOKABURRA WITH CHICKS

K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

GARDEN NOTES

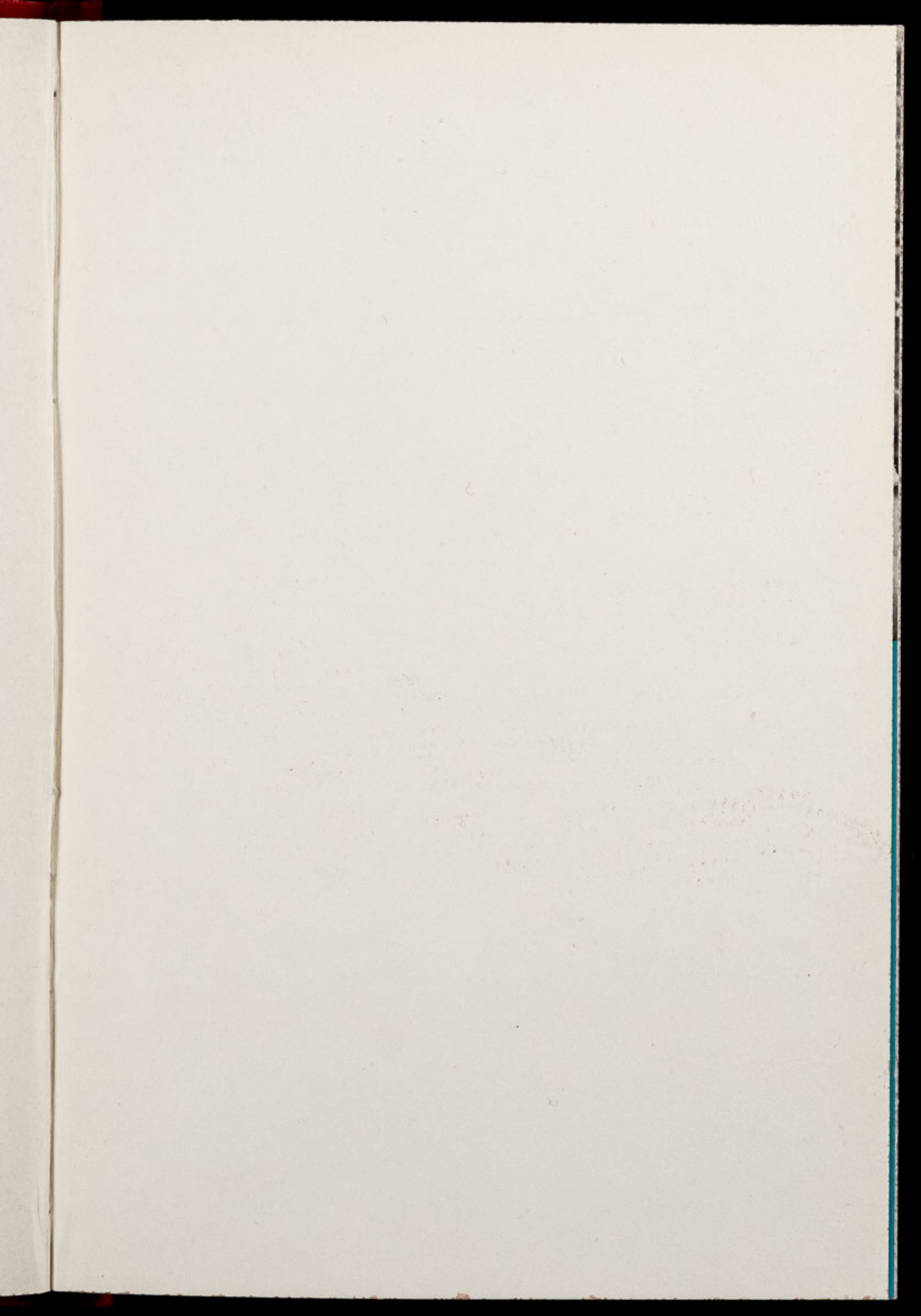
Our new Rock Garden constructed last winter and planted in April, has matured much quicker than we thought, due chiefly to suitable growing conditions after planting and the rich soil used. The plants have filled up and established themselves well, and all have flowered or are flowering. Although some 1,500 Alpine plants were used in this initial planting, only half the planting had been completed and some 1,500 other plants were used. These consisted of *Mesembryanthemum criniflorum*, *Gazanias* in variety and *Violas* and on a sunny day these create a blaze of colour. Although these plants are not true Alpines, we shall be adding more Alpine plants over the years; we do feel that we must always reserve a space for these colourful plants in the future.

At first the whole of the Rock Garden was wired round, as when the plants were small there was a temptation for children to run over it, especially with the attraction of the waterfalls. Recently we removed this wire guard, and how pleased we are that our visitors have respected the gardens. At the end of a busy day hardly a footmark can be seen.

Our summer bedding is now at its peak with all the plants in full flower, and this will go on until early October; it is nice to see the result after all the months of preparation; *Begonias* we feel are especially good this year. The *Bougainvillea* in the Monkey House is now at its best; what a wonderful sight this is with its exotic flowers. Also in flower in this house are *Rhodochiton atrosagunia* and *Datura suaveolens*.

Trees and shrubs in the Tropical House continue to thrive, increasing in height and size. The *Hybiscus* are flowering extremely well this year, including the rare and interesting *Hybiscus shizopetalus*; also in flower are *Allamandii hendersonii*, *Clereodenstron thompsonii*, *Stephanotis floribunda*, *Passifloras* in variety, *Bougainvilleas* in variety, etc. Of particular note is *Bougainvillea magnifica*.

Several bunches of Bananas are in various stages of development with the birds waiting eagerly for them to ripen. Our Tomato tree, *Cyphomandra betacea*, is just loaded with fruit; these turn to an orange yellow when ripe and are edible.



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