

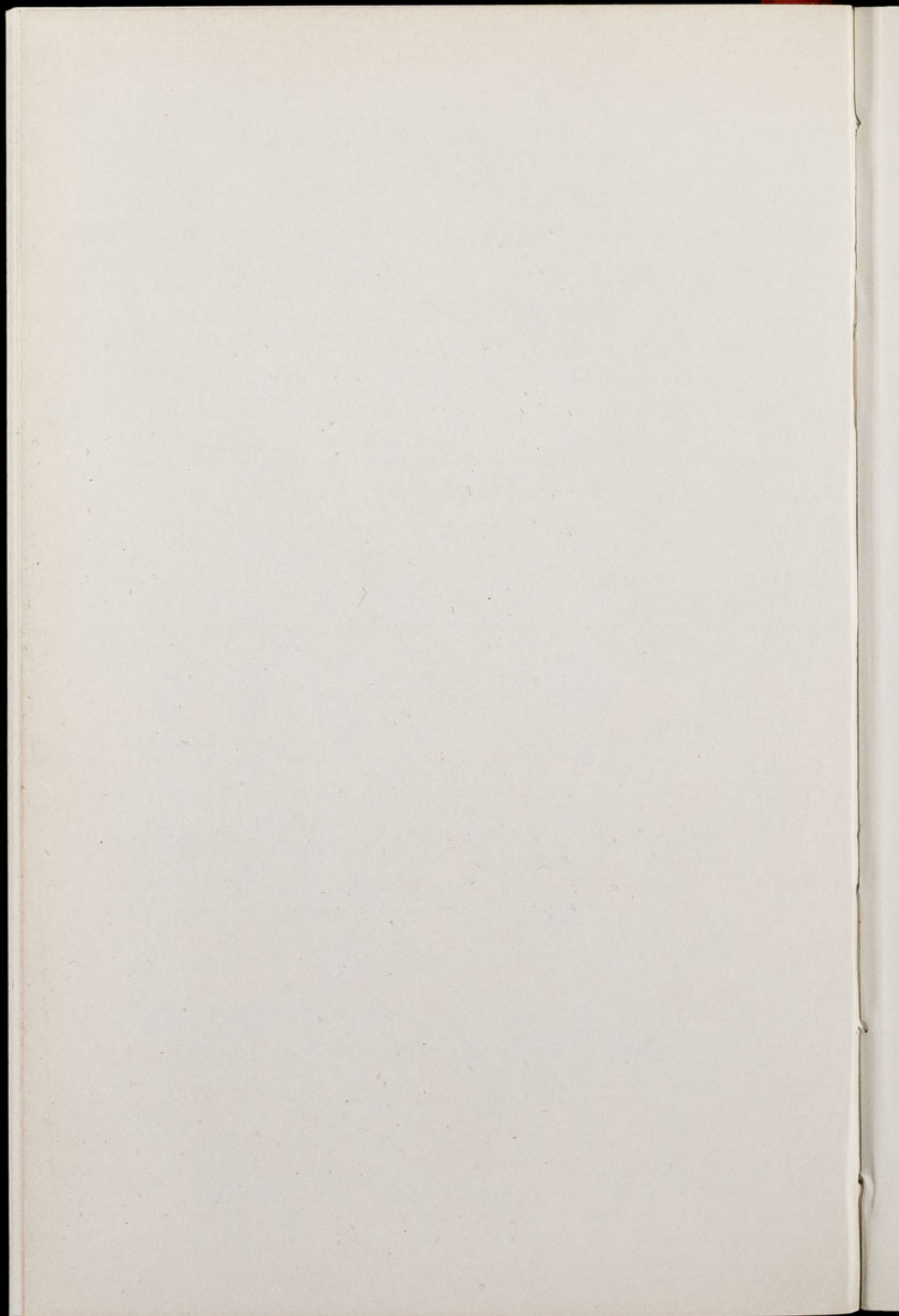
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON - BY - CHESTER

May 1977

Price 12p



The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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COVER

Our baby elephant.

By courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

Annual subscription — Two Pounds and Thirty Pence, postage paid
Telephone Chester 20106/7/8

NOTABLE BIRTH

A male to "Judy", Indian Elephant (*Elaphas maximus*), weighing about 250-lb. at birth. Born May 8th, 1977 at Chester Zoo.

"Nobby", the Indian Elephant who had to be destroyed last year when he escaped from the zoo on to the highway, was the father.

"Sheba", our other female elephant (*Elaphas maximus*), gave birth to a calf in October, 1974 which died a few hours after birth.

True to the natural instinct of elephants "Sheba" has become quite broody with the birth of the youngster, and assists the mother in looking after her young. The little one only goes to its mother when feeding. The African male "Jumbolina" (*Loxodonta africana*) is kept away from the youngster by the two females.

INSECTARIUM

A pair of West African Praying Mantis (*Sphadromantia lineola*) was donated to the Insectarium by a dealer who was very impressed with Chester Zoo's reptile collection. The pair have mated, and the female has laid an ootheca, or egg case. Sometimes the female Mantis eats the male during or after mating, but our male survived without coming to any harm. Mantis feed on locusts, flies, etc., taking prey almost as large as themselves. The ootheca can contain over 300 eggs.

Some caterpillars of the Japanese Owl Moth (*Brahmaea japonica*) are also on show. These feed on privet, and have long spines behind their head and on the end of the body. They burrow into the soil to pupate, and will emerge as adult moths next year.

These insects can be seen in the Insectarium in the Tropical House.

ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

The breedings for April/May this year are as follows:

3 Soay Lambs (*Ovis aries*)

1 Pere David's Deer (*Elaphurus davidianus*)

2 Arabian Gazelles (*Gazella arabica*)

1 Grant's (or Common) Zebra (*Equus burchelli granti*)

A pair of Racoons (*Procyon lotar*) have been added to the collection. The distribution of these animals is from southern Canada through most of the United States of America into Central America. Racoons tend to be more nocturnal than diurnal. In the southern United States and southward, they are active all the year round, but in the northern part of their range they sleep through most of the winter. The dens of Racoons are often to be found in hollow trees or in rock crevices. They do not exist in large numbers. Several females live with one male.

The Raccoon is omnivorous, preferring aquatic food which might be offered such as frogs and fish, but will take small land animals, and various nuts, seeds, fruits, corn and acorns. The Raccoon washes its food in water and the reason would appear to be to remove sand and grit as well as some animal secretions.

Its fur is grey to almost brown. It has from five to ten black rings on its tail which is greyish-black, and a black streak across the face. It has a broad head and a pointed muzzle. The hands are used as adroitly as monkeys use theirs. This is not a large animal, its body length, including its tail, being 32½ in. to 39½ in.

The gestation period for the Raccoon is 60 to 73 days, the usual number of young bred being three to four, but there can be any number up to seven. Females reach maturity at one year old, and the males reach maturity in their second year.

The pair can be seen in Enclosure 34 (the Camel House).

HAND REARINGS

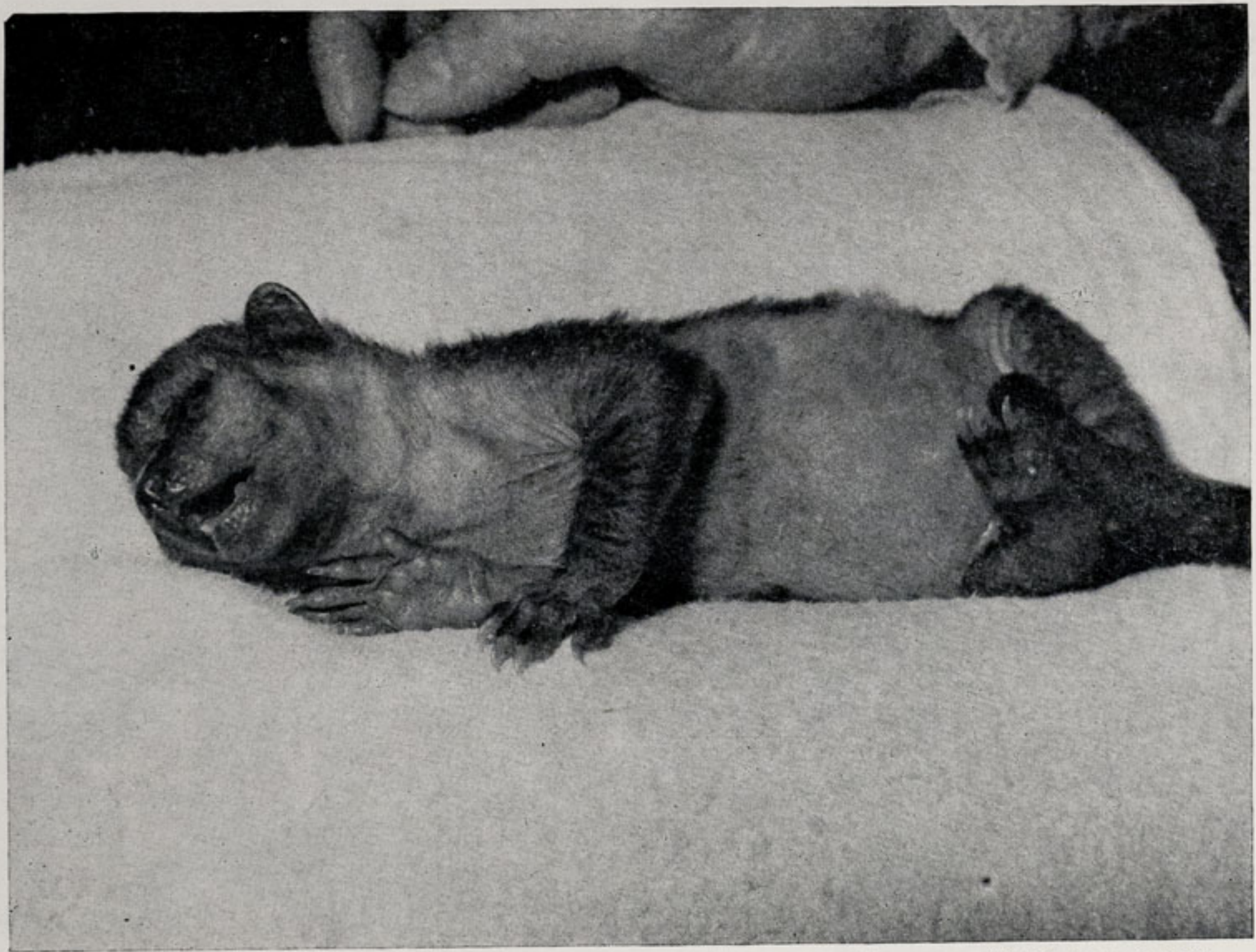
A Kinkajou was bred on the 1st April. Unfortunately it was abandoned by its mother, and Peter Wait, Curator of Mammals, picked it up thinking it might not survive. He took the creature to his home and gave it a hot bath in an effort to revive it. It was put into a plastic bag and placed in hot water to increase the body heat. Soon it was apparent that the youngster, a male, showed signs of reviving. He was fed every two hours round the clock with a mixture of cow's milk and water—about three parts milk to one of boiling water. The main thing was to keep the animal warm, and his bed was a cardboard box with a small heating lamp over it. The temperature inside the box was kept to 90°F.

At twenty days the young Kinkajou's body weight had been trebled, its eyes were open and these were a bright black. Kinkajous are born without teeth and the hair is sparse. By this time it had all its teeth and short, stubby hair. Kinkajous are slow developers, and it will be quite a while before this one is on solid food. It was taking 5 mls. at each feed, and this amount has gradually increased to 15 mls.

In the wild this species is found in the forests of southern Mexico, Central America, ranging south at least to Mato Grosso, Brazil. Kinkajous have rounded heads and short faces. Their tails are long and powerfully prehensile. The tail can grip branches in conjunction with the hind feet and the animal is then able to reach out with its arms and mouth for the wild figs and other fruits which it devours greedily. It has a long tongue with which to extract the centres of the fruit it eats. These animals are very fond of honey, and they are often called "Honey Bears". They travel about at night in pairs or singly, spending the day in tree hollows, sometimes lying on a limb or in vine tangles. At night they have a shrill, quavering scream that can be heard for quite a distance.

These animals have short, sharp claws. The hair is soft and woolly, becoming a tawny-olive to yellowish or brownish-yellow colour. One, occasionally two young are born in the spring or early summer.

* * *



By courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

YOUNG KINKAJOU (*Potos flavus*)

A male Viscacha has also been bred in the zoo. He was born on Easter Monday, and again it was thought that this one might not survive. Unfortunately the mother had abandoned the youngster, and he too was taken to the home of the Curator of Mammals for hand-rearing. It was observed that the youngster had a bite on his leg—probably from the male parent. The Curator gave him the same treatment as that for the Kinkajou, and he survived.

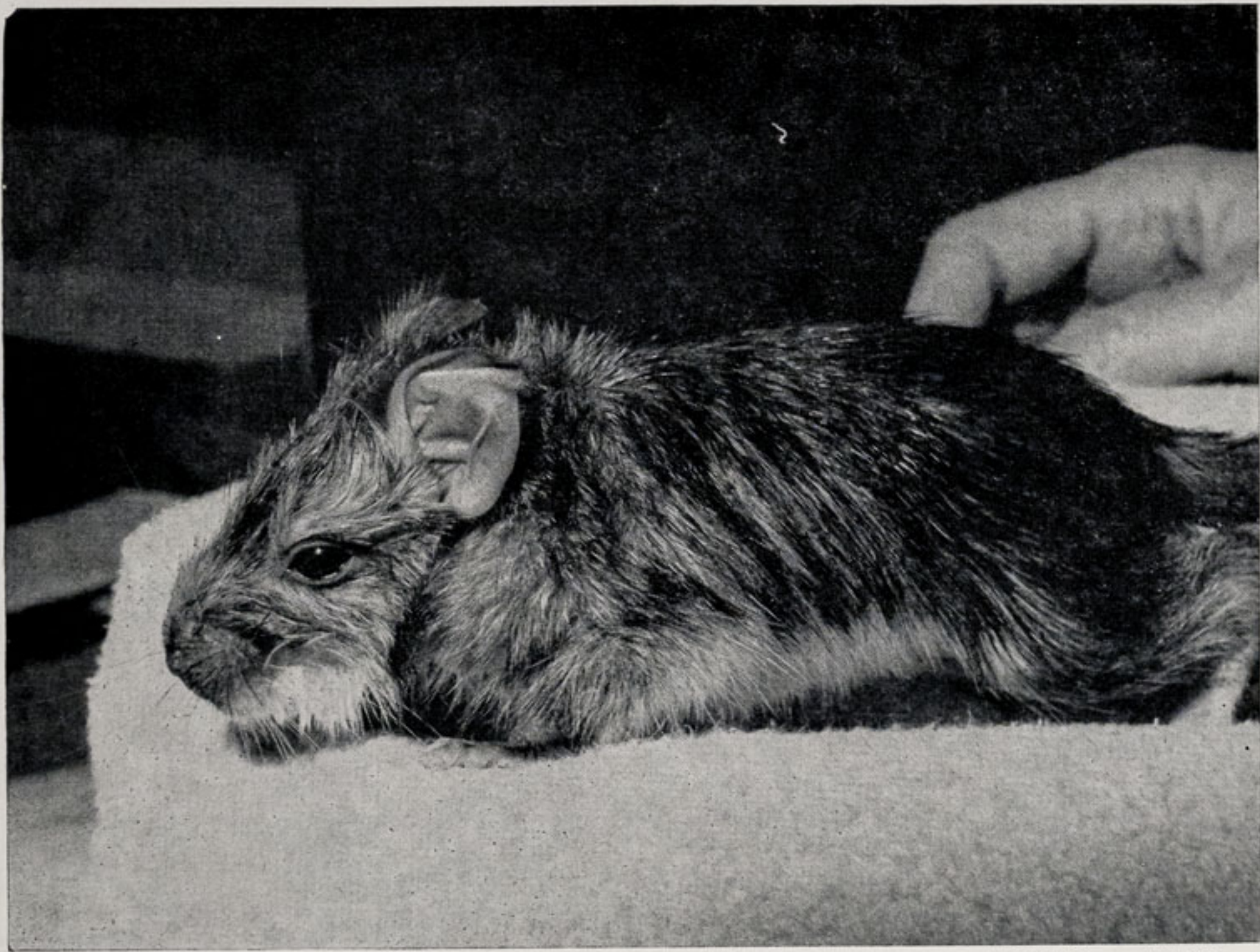
The young Viscacha proved to be quite robust, and after two hours' treatment he stood up and there was no stopping him. He was born with quite sharp teeth. His coat at birth was rather like that of a guinea-pig. He now has quite a strong call, rather like a two-toned squeak. This little one loves company.

With the first feed he took 3 mls., and was subsequently fed every two hours round the clock. He was soon weaned to a feed every three hours, these feeds coinciding with the Kinkajou's. The Viscacha is now taking $7/8$ mls. at each feed. On the fifth day he started taking solid food in the form of a biscuit or cornflakes, and a little bit of apple—sucking the juice rather than the fruit itself. He nibbles at soft hay.

The adult Viscacha closely resembles the true chinchilla. It has a large head, short muzzle and long whiskers. Its general fur colouration is dark grey, the under-fur being white. From the cheek to the muzzle there is a light stripe. This species lives on low ground, being found on the pampas from Buenos Aires to Patagonia.

At night Viscachas are active, whole colonies of them being seen by the roadsides in the late evening. They are highly gregarious animals and the colonies are usually large. In cultivated areas they graze all the vegetation around them. Many colonies have been greatly reduced by killing. Viscachas breed twice in a year, producing $1/2$ young at a time.

In the wild they have a habit of carrying various objects such as animal horns, bones, rocks, clods, etc., to the entrance to their burrows. They are clean animals and carry all refuse in the burrows to the entrance.



By courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

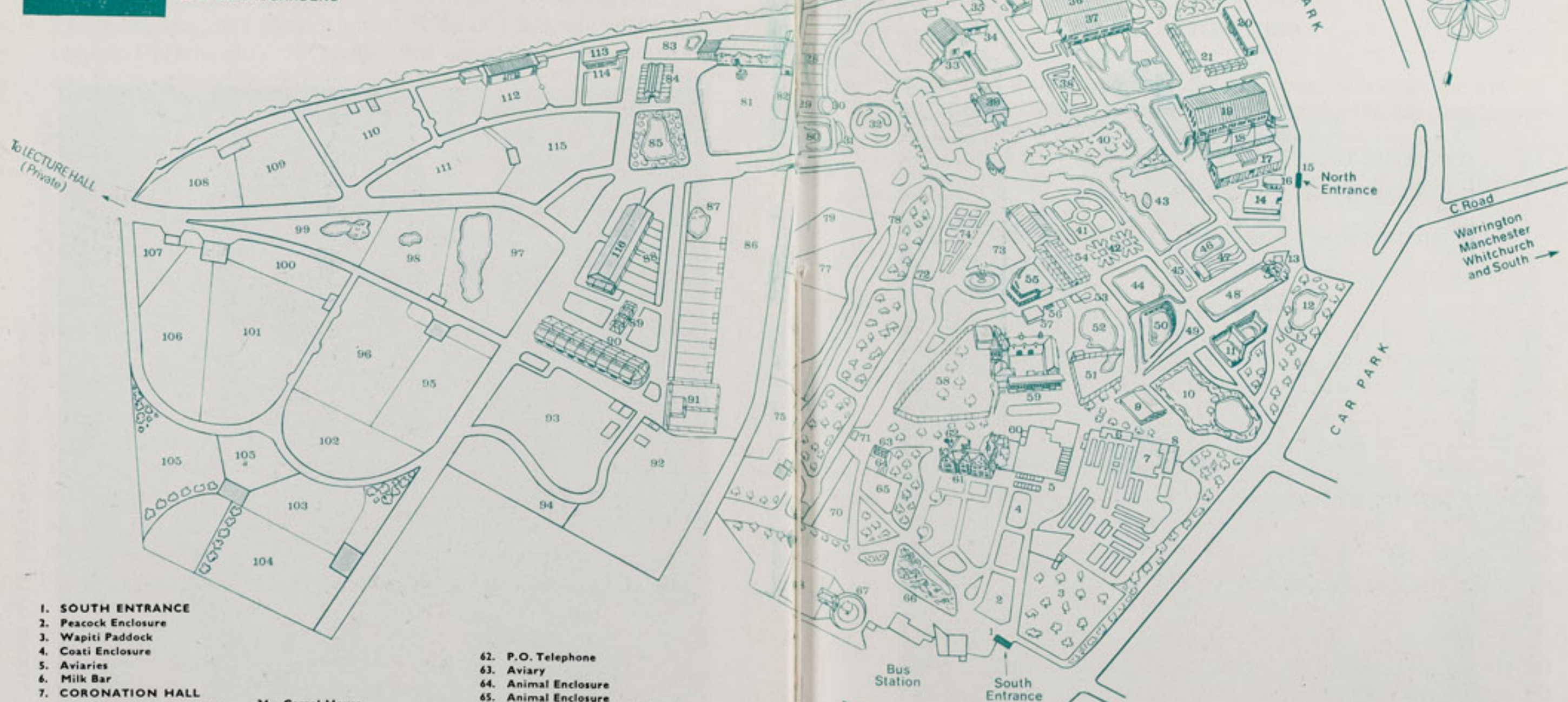
YOUNG MALE VISCACHA *Lagostomus maximus*

CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

FOR A COMPLETE TOUR OF THE ZOO — Follow Nos 1-116 in South Entrance
or Nos 16-116 from North Entrance then return to Nos 1-14.

**Chester Zoo is Open Daily
from 9.00 a.m. until dusk.**



1. SOUTH ENTRANCE

2. Peacock Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Coati Enclosure
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, FIRST AID, TOILETS, MOTHER AND BABY ROOM
9. CAFETERIA
10. Picnic Lawn
11. Bears
12. Sunken Garden
13. Kiosk
14. AQUARIUM
15. NORTH ENTRANCE
16. PUSH CHAIRS, WHEEL CHAIRS, LOST CHILDREN
17. PARROT HOUSE
18. Free Flight Aviary
19. APE HOUSE
20. Shop and Kiosk
21. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
22. TOILETS
23. Tuatara Exhibit
24. Peccaries
25. Waterbus Halt
26. Birds of Prey Aviaries
27. Condor Aviary
28. Jackal and Hyena Enclosures
29. Animal Enclosure
30. Porcupine Enclosure
31. Coypus
32. Beavers
33. Giraffe House

34. Camel House
35. Waterbus Halt
36. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL & REPTILE HOUSES
37. CHIMPANZEES
38. Floribunda Rose Garden
39. Mammal House
40. Gibbon Island
41. H.T. Rose Garden
42. Aviaries
43. Flamingos
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Waterfowl Enclosure
46. Waterfowl Enclosure
47. Penguins
48. Sealions
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Cat Enclosure
52. Waterfowl Enclosure
53. Anteaters
54. BIRD HOUSE
55. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT
56. Ape Nursery
57. TOILETS
58. Lions
59. SOUVENIR SHOP
60. TOILETS
61. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT

62. P.O. Telephone
63. Aviary
64. Animal Enclosure
65. Animal Enclosure
66. Ornamental Rock Garden
67. Malayan Bears
68. Kangaroo Enclosure
69. Aviary
70. Cheetahs
71. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE AND KIOSK
72. Waterbus Halt
73. Fountain Flower Gardens
74. Rose Garden
75. Red Lechwe
76. Red Lechwe
77. Deer or Antelope Enclosure
78. Waterbus Halt
79. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
80. Kamchatka Bears
81. ELEPHANTS
82. Hippos
83. Tapirs
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Ankole Cattle
87. Emus and Cranes
88. Stork Enclosures
89. Baboon Pens
90. Cat House
91. Big Cat Enclosures

92. Antelope Enclosure
93. Antelope Enclosure
94. Antelope Enclosure
95. Zebras
96. Zebras
97. Waterfowl Enclosure
98. Waterfowl Enclosure
99. Waterfowl Enclosure
100. Blackbuck
101. Wallabies
102. Animal Enclosure
103. Wallabies
104. Pere David's Deer Paddock

105. Llamas
- 105a. Llamas
106. Arabian Gazelles
107. Animal Paddock
108. Bison
109. Pere David's Deer Paddock
110. Prairie Marmots, Alpacas
111. Antelope Enclosure
112. RHINOS
113. TOILETS
114. Mpila Snack Bar
115. Antelope Enclosure
116. MONKEY HOUSE

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES:

- LIONS—3 pm except Fridays
 BEARS—3-15 pm
 POLAR BEARS—4 pm
 SEA LIONS 3 times daily—
 2-30 pm, 3-30 pm, 4-30 pm

ANIMALS MAY BE MOVED
FROM TIME TO TIME

BIRD NOTES

We are pleased to report the following birds which have been received into the collection:

- 1 Yellow and Green Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus flavoviridis*)
- 2 Silver Bills (*Euodice malabarica cantans*)
- 1.1 White-crested Laughing Thrushes (*Gallus leucolophus*)
- 1 Common-crowned Pigeon (*Goura cristata*)

As far as our bird programme is concerned the weather has been very poor up to now. We are having days that are extremely cold, followed by a warm day. This has a disastrous effect on tropical birds.

There is, however, a great deal of activity in the Tropical House, where we have young Ornate Lorikeets, several broods of Jerdon's Starlings, and Jungle Mynahs in the nest. The Black-throated Laughing Thrushes have also built a nest. This must be very high up in the vegetation as we have not been able to find it.

We have deliberately delayed installing nest boxes into many of the breeding aviaries for the parrots, parakeets and cockatoos, until the weather is more reliable.

Fortunately, we have only had one case of egg-binding—that of a Barraband Parakeet. This was detected early enough for the bird to be removed and placed in the hospital cage at a temperature of 95°F. She passed two eggs and has now been returned to the Breeding Aviaries.

The waterfowl breedings are quite late. A number of geese and ducks are just laying, or in the process of building nests.

Our owls are doing quite well this year. A pair of Great Eagle Owls have hatched, and we have another pair sitting. A pair of Spectacled Owls and two pairs of Spotted Eagle Owls are also sitting.



By courtesy of J. Whitworth

GIANT ZONURE, OR LORD DERBY'S LIZARD (*Cordylus giganteus*)— TO BE SEEN IN THE TROPICAL HOUSE

The only advantage that we have had from the wet and cold weather is that there is a large amount of green-food available this year in the form of chickweed and various other grasses. We supply this to all our parrot-like birds throughout the whole breeding season.

AQUARIUM NEWS

Following on our report in the April issue of the magazine, there have been further additions to the Aquarium. The following are fresh water tropical fish:

- 50 Neon Tetras (*Hyphessobrycon innesi*)
- 12 Congo Tetras (*Micralestes interruptus*)
- 2 Spotted Talking Catfish (*Doras pectinifrons*)
- 12 Beacon Fish (*Hemigrammus ocellifer*)
- 16 Rosy Barbs (*Barbus conchoni*)
- 4 Borneo Flying Foxes (*Epalzeorhynchus kallopterus*)
- 4 Siamese Flying Foxes (*Epalzeothynchus siamensis*)
- 6 Gold-lipped Mackrel
- 12 Serpae Characin (*Hyphessobrycon serpae*)
- 100 Sucking Loach (*Gyrinocheilus aymoneiri*)
- 12 Golden Gourami (*Trichogaster trichopterus*)
- 3 Climbing Perch (*Anabas testudinus*)
- 24 Ruby Barbs (*Barbus nigrofasciatus*)
- 12 Golden Barns (*Barnus schuberti*)

We have also acquired some fresh water tropical fish which we have not had in the Aquarium before:

- 3 Golden-striped Malawi Cichlids (*Pseudotropheus auratus*)
- 3 Mottled (or Speckled) Knife Fish (*Hypopomus artedi*)
- 6 Chameleon Goby Fish (*Hypseleotris species*)
- 3 Red-fin Botias (*Botia species*)
- 2 Tiger Botias (*Botia lucas bahi*)

A number of Marine Tropical Fishes have also been acquired for the collection. These are as follows:

- 1 Copperband Butterfly (*Chelmon rostratus*)
- 1 Banded Catshark (*Chiloscyllium colax*)
- 1 Domino Damsel (*Dascyllus trinaculatus*)
- 2 Yellow-tailed Blue Damsels (*Pomacentrus melanochir*)
- 2 Dusky Damsels (*Dascyllus reticulatus*)
- 2 Black-tailed Humbug Damsels (*Damsel dascyllus melanurus*)
- 3 Teak Clown Fishes (*Amphiprion species*)
- 1 Saddleback Clown Fish (*Amphiprion polymus*)
- 1 Boxfish (*Ostracion tuberculatus*)
- 1 Thornback Boxfish (*Tetrosomus gibbosus*)
- 1 Wimble Butterfly Fish (*Heniochus acuminatus*)

In the wild Catsharks are mostly inshore forms, existing among the rocks and marine grasses or weeds of shallow waters. Their range is the Western Pacific. We are not sure whether this one will survive as these sharks are very difficult to keep. It will be interesting to see if we can achieve the almost impossible.

The Thornback Boxfish has an external skeleton, and its colouration is a creamy-white with black spots. It looks like a small pebble in the water. Its colour will be variable as it gets older.

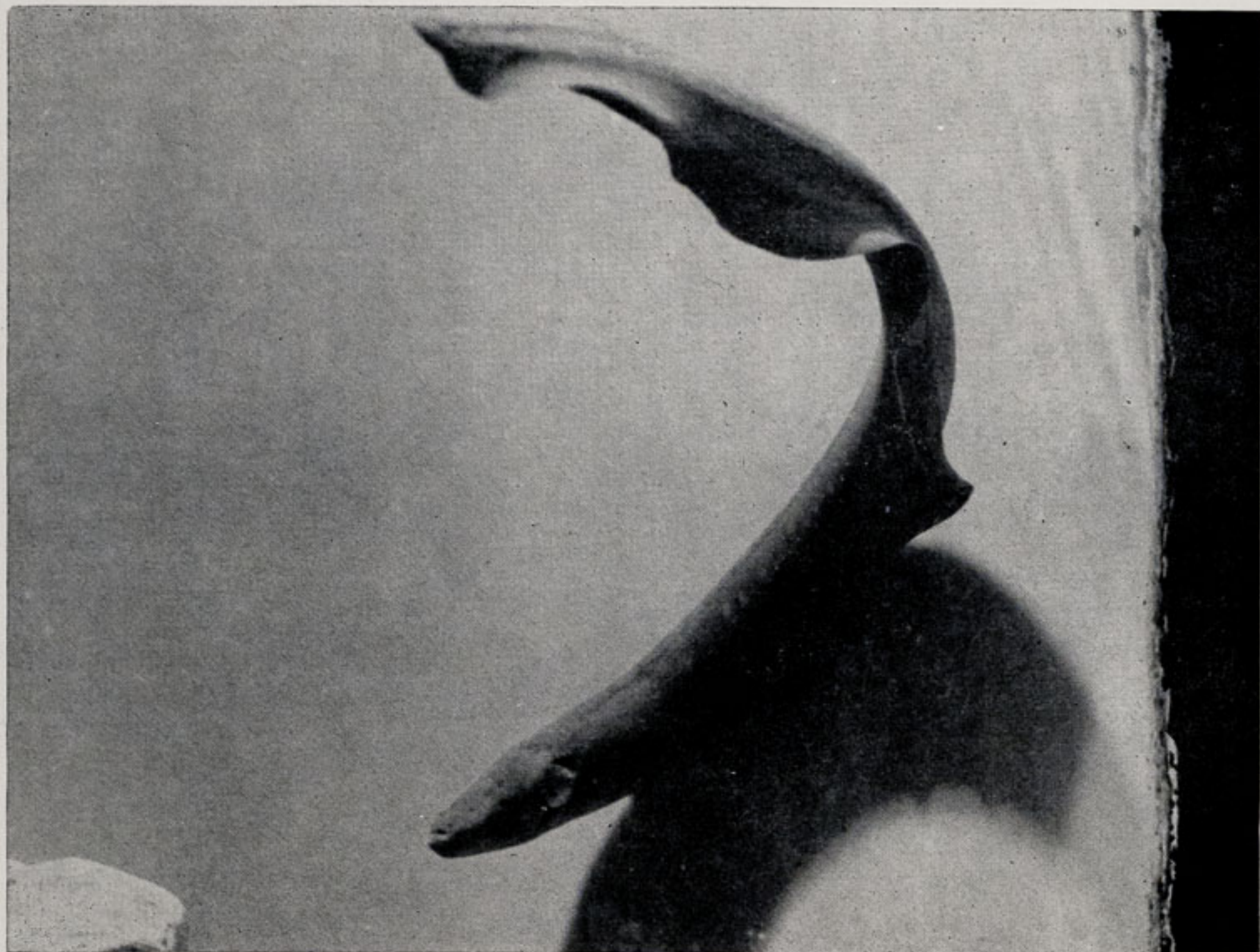
Clown Fishes are able to live in association with the Anemone. This will sting other fishes, but Clown Fishes are immune.

GARDENING NOTES

The flower beds in the Zoo Gardens, now at their best after the long winter months, are the main attraction during the month of May.

Our wallflowers have come through the winter very well, despite the rain and cold winds which we have had.

Most of the tulips are planted together with polyanthus and



By courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.
YOUNG ELECTRIC EEL (*Electrophorus electricus*) IN OUR AQUARIUM
An adult electric eel can stun other fishes, amphibians and even larger mammals

pansies. The latter did not get established very well last autumn because of the exceptionally heavy falls of rain which we then had, but fortunately we were able to make up the losses from reserves in the nursery. The pansies soon spread out in the beds with the warmer weather. If not checked, greenfly can soon ruin a bed of pansies, and now that we have the systemic sprays this is easily kept under control.

An attractive border is by the Cat Enclosure (No. 51 on the Map). This consists of a mixture of plants including pansies, daisies, forget-me-nots, aubretia and Double Arabis. Usually polyanthus and wallflowers have finished flowering by the beginning of June, but pansies always appear at their best. Many visitors are distressed to see the gardeners pulling them up at this time to make way for the summer plants. It must be pointed out, however, that pansies would not last the summer season to the standard we require, and to make a good show the summer plants must be bedded out early in June.

During May the Standard Flowering Cherry and Malus will be in flower. Double-pink Cherry (*Prunus cerasus kanzan*) is planted throughout the zoo. *Prunus amanogawa* is of erect habit and gives a column of pale pink flowers. This is on the Rockery (No. 66 on the Map). An avenue of *Prunus pissardii nigra* is growing along the road leading towards the Tropical House entrance. This one has a small white or pink flower early in April, but its main attraction is its deep reddish-purple leaves. It can stand any amount of pruning to keep it in shape and is often grown as a hedge.

Another avenue of standard ornamental trees is growing down Green End Lane. The name of the lane is clearly marked opposite the entrance to the Monkey House. These trees were planted in January 1962. They are *Prunus amygdalus* (the almond), which is now past flowering this year, *Prunus kanzan*, the double pink; *Prunus fugenzo* (H. J. Veitch), and a double pink of a more spreading

habit, *Laburnum vosii*, well known for its masses of flowers hanging like golden chains.

Malus hillieri is one of the last to flower with masses of semi-double flowers crimson in bud, opening to bright pink. *Malus lemoinei* has deep crimson flowers with reddish purple leaves and small purple fruit coming later. *Malus floribunda* has bright red buds opening to pink flowers. The head of this tree is smaller and has a semi-weeping habit. *Malus* is the latin name for the ordinary apple-tree.

Opposite the Monkey House is a picnic lawn with a long, curving holly-hedge. Dotted in the hedge are some Standard Scarlet-flowering Hawthorns. These, along with the holly-hedge, were planted in February 1962.

Two species of *Acer* growing in the large shrubbery at the side of the Aquarium are now at their best with new leaves. They are *Acer brilliantissima*, with coral-pink leaves (this species is very slow-growing and the trees are nearly thirty years old), and *Acer negundo variegata* which grows more quickly and has a spreading habit.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

New readers of the CHESTER ZOO NEWS who would like to receive the magazine regularly may be interested to know that subscription forms can be obtained from the souvenir shops. An annual subscription (12 issues) costs £2.30, postage paid, which can either be handed over the counter at the shops or posted with the completed form to the Director-Secretary, Chester Zoo, Chester.



The following notice is displayed on several boards in the grounds
Please comply with it at all times

FEEDING OF ANIMALS AND BIRDS

IT IS AN OFFENCE for any member of the public to offer food of any description to any Animal or Bird in Chester Zoo.

This regulation is made for the sake of the health of the Animals and Birds. Since the **NO FEEDING** rule was introduced, the number of deaths has dropped appreciably and sickness due to wrong feeding has been virtually eliminated.

What you may be offering to an animal may only be a sweet or an inoffensive piece of bread, but it can mean a death sentence for the animal. For example, a cough drop, which may relieve your cough, can cause instant death to many Animals and Birds in the Zoo.

You must not lose sight of the fact that you are only one of over a million visitors who visit the Zoo annually. If for instance an elephant had one bun from only one tenth of a day's visitors during the summer, it would eat between three and four thousand. You can guess the result.

We realise what a temptation it is for visitors, particularly children, to feed our Animals and Birds and this is why we invite members of the public to be present at the official feeding times.

This is a polite warning to you, asking you not to feed the animals. If you ignore it, the Keepers are authorised to ask you to leave the Gardens.

If you really love Animals and Birds, you will appreciate the wisdom of the ruling — No feeding by members of the public.

**PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP OUR COLLECTION OF
ANIMALS NOT ONLY ALIVE BUT IN FIRST CLASS
CONDITION**

SA 1 12