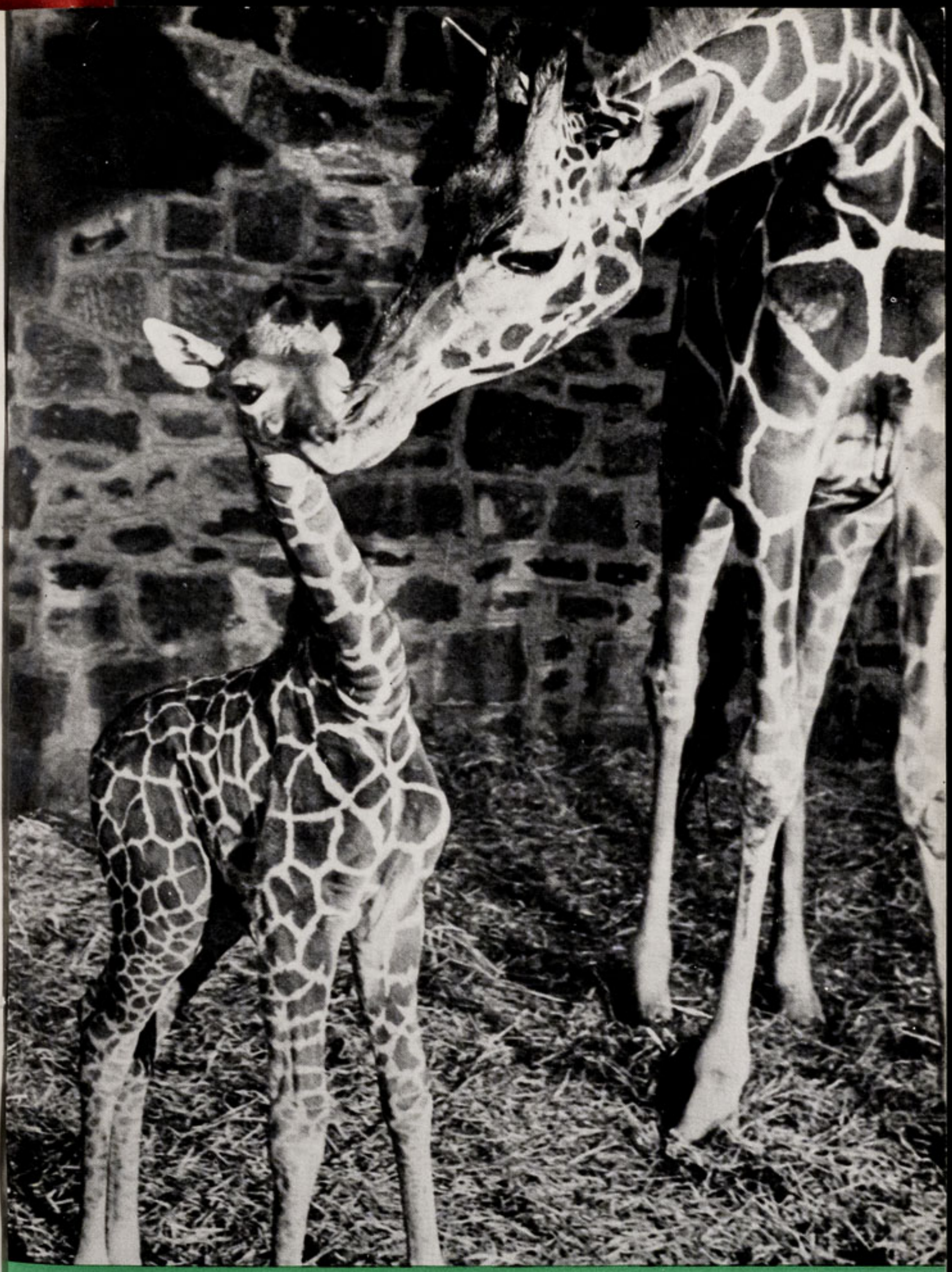

CHESTER ZOO NEWS

AND GUIDE

December 1978 **Price 12p**

The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

COUNCIL

CONTENTS

ILLUSTRATIONS

COVER

"Gwen" with "Patricia".

By courtesy of the Mel Grundy Agency

Annual subscription — Two Pounds and Thirty Pence, postage paid
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GIRAFFES

During November "Gwen", our female Reticulated Giraffe gave birth to "Patricia", a beautiful healthy calf. The father is "Richie", a Masai Giraffe who was himself born at Chester Zoo. "Gwen" had previously given birth to two calves but rejected both; needless to say everyone at the Zoo was very pleased when the mother accepted this baby.

The Family Giraffidae has two Members, these are the aloof and elegant Giraffe and the shy, forest dwelling Okapi, the only living close relative of the Giraffe. The species of Giraffe, *Giraffa camelopardalis*, has been divided into from eight to thirteen races depending on the authority. This sub-classification is generally based on the locality in which the animal is found, the colour and markings of the coat and the number of horns. Below are the eight most widely recognised sub-species, (though there is argument even about these):

Nubian Giraffe (*Giraffa c. camelopardalis*) S.E. Sudan, West and South Ethiopia.
Kordofan Giraffe (*Giraffa c. antiquorum*) N.W. Sudan.
Chad or Niger Giraffe (*Giraffa c. peralta*) Sahel belt of West Africa.
Reticulated Giraffe (*Giraffa c. reticulata*) N. Kenya.
Rothschild's Giraffe (*Giraffa c. rothschildi*) Uganda and Sudan.
Masai Giraffe (*Giraffa c. tippelskirchi*) S. Kenya and Tanzania.
Angola Giraffe (*Giraffa c. angolensis*) Angola.
Cape Giraffe (*Giraffa c. giraffa*) now extinct in the South.

The Nubian Giraffe is pale with a pattern very similar to that of the beautiful Reticulated Giraffe; the Reticulated differs, however in having very rich red evenly coloured patches separated by clear white lines into the familiar angular patterns. Irregular fawn markings are characteristic of the Angola Giraffe and the Cape Giraffe was also lightly coloured; however, the Cape Giraffe also had a particularly prominent centre horn or "boss". The Masai Giraffe has irregular, almost leaf-shaped, patterns covering its body. The Rothschild's Giraffe has a variety of names and these include the Uganda and Baringo Giraffe; some Rothschild's Giraffes may have grown up to seven horns but five horns is the usual number. The above races are at best only sub-species as they can inter-breed with one another, producing fertile young.

The structure of the Giraffe's horns is midway between the make-up of the antlers of the deer and the horns of the antelope. In the deer, a bony core grows each year under its cover of skin, commonly known as "velvet"; the skin dies off when the antlers are fully grown leaving the bone exposed. Usually, antlers are present on the male only but in the Reindeer, *Rangifer tarandus*, both sexes carry them. At the end of the season the antlers themselves fall off. In the Giraffe, however, the bony core is covered by skin which does not die or get rubbed off and the bones, or horns, are retained at all times. Both males and females grow horns. The Pronghorn, *Antilocapra americana*, is not a true antelope, for it grows a hollow sheath of horny material derived from skin, (much as our own finger-nails), over a bony core. The sheath is shed each year and a new one grows; both male and female bear horns. The true Antelopes, as well as the cattle, sheep and goats, have a bony core with a permanent horny covering, also derived from skin. These horns get slightly larger each year, creating the beautiful trophies once prized by big game hunters. Generally only males carry horns but the Springbok, *Antidorcas marsupialis*, as well as the cattle, sheep and goats have horns in both sexes.

The courting rituals of the male and female Giraffe are a straightforward sequence with little fuss; the male brushes the hindquarters of the female with his head and licks her tail; this behaviour will stimulate the female to pass urine which the male tastes. From tasting the urine he is able to determine whether the female is receptive; if she is the male will follow her for hours, often repeating the ritual, before mating.

A single calf is born after a gestation period which can vary from 420-468 days; nearly six feet tall and weighing approximately 100-150 lbs, the baby must first drop some $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet to the ground as the female gives birth standing up. The calf is able to get to its feet and suckle a short time after being born. It soon is able to walk and run with the herd, an important survival factor otherwise the young animal would be easy prey for Lions, Hunting Dogs, Hyaenas and other predators; for it is the animals which become stragglers which are most likely to be taken. At about a week old the youngster will take some green food, the Giraffe using its long prehensile tongue to gather juicy leaves. Suckling will be carried on until the calf is about 10-12 months old. The calf grows very quickly, adding 3 feet

to its height during the first year; at 3-4 years old the Giraffe is sexually mature, females may stay with the parent herd but young males leave to join "bachelor" groups of males. At seven years old a male may be approaching eighteen feet tall and weigh almost a ton, females are generally two feet shorter and weigh 12-15 cwt (600-750 kg).

Adult males often fight, swinging their heads from side to side at each other; the horns are rounded and blunt so there is very little danger of damage during such encounters. Although there appear to be very few deaths between males fighting for females, the Giraffe does have two recognised enemies, Lion and Man. An unprotected young Giraffe would be easy prey but a fully grown animal is a completely different matter. The Giraffe has good eyesight situated at the top of a very convenient "watch-tower", but there are two possible methods which may be used by the Lion to overcome this outstanding attribute, stalking and pursuit. A Giraffe is at its most vulnerable when in a bending position for drinking and eating; apart from the fact that the eyesight is not being utilised to full advantage, the animal is in a precarious stance and also the most easy one for a Lion to attack. If a Lion remains downwind and hidden it can attack by stalking to within pouncing distance; once the leader, (usually an experienced female), has attacked, the rest of the pride close in for the kill. In effect only sick Giraffes and accidental stragglers will be taken; the kick is an extremely effective means of defence. A Lion could easily be severely wounded or even killed by a kick to the head or body and is therefore unlikely to repeat an attack on healthy, adult animals.

In the wild Giraffes live in herds usually in open savannah and thorny bush country. They browse mainly on Acacia trees, their 16 inch tongue curls round leaves and thorns from the top-most branches and draws them off the twigs and into the mouth to be chewed and swallowed. The thorns do not appear to disturb them and are eaten with as much relish as the leaves. The Zoo diet is varied and consists of willow and poplar branches when available, lucerne, zoo concentrate, carrots and grass. When the Giraffe drinks it has to spread its forelegs out wide to bring the body down, because the forelegs are longer than the neck, so that the head cannot reach down from a normal standing position.

By courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

GIRAFFE

Also noticeable, is the unusual gait known as an amble or rack, where both legs on each side of the body are moved simultaneously; the camel also walks in this fashion.

Although Giraffes have variations in colour and pattern according to the particular sub-species to which they belong, white, possibly albino, and black (melanistic), forms are believed to have been seen.

As long ago as 1500 B.C. there was a belief that Giraffes were crosses between camels and leopards and this gave rise in time to the Latin name "camelopardalis". Pictures of Giraffes have been found in Egyptian tombs and Giraffes were brought to Rome during the time of the Roman Empire.

A question often asked is how is it that when a Giraffe puts its head down all the blood can get back to its heart, and how is it when it puts its head up again it does not faint from lack of blood reaching the brain? Not only has the Giraffe a large heart weighing more than 11 kilograms, which has enough power to pump the blood, (approx-

imately 60 litres per minute), to the head when the neck is stretched upwards, but the blood vessels to and from the head have valves which allow the flow to go only one way and thus stop pooling of blood in the head when it bends forward. It is not known how long a Giraffe can remain with its head bent down to drink, but it is probable that if it did it for too long it would begin to black out.

However, apart from explanations about blood pressure, horn structure and descriptions of various sub-species, one thing is certain—a child's visit to a Zoo today would most certainly be incomplete if he were not able to see the tallest living animal, the elegant and beautiful Giraffe.

P. A. WAIT—CURATOR OF MAMMALS

Born in 1928, the son of a Ripon farmer, Mr. Peter Wait has had a life long interest in animals and their welfare—from looking after domestic animals and the various strays that came his way during the time he worked on his father's farm, to the responsibility of a post as Assistant Manager on a 22,000 acre estate (one of the largest in England). From Assistant Manager he was promoted to Manager and was then directly responsible for the land, mainly arable, but also large herds of beef and dairy cattle and sheep. He attended evening classes and has a good grounding in animal husbandry, farm management and in farm machinery. When the owner of the farm died, however, Mr. Wait decided that the time had come for a change and he approached the late Mr. Mottershead. Mr. Wait came to Chester Zoo in 1968 as Section Officer and was later promoted to Assistant Curator and finally, Curator of Mammals.

During all this time Mrs. Wait has been long-suffering and patient, never quite knowing what will be coming home next! However, she takes a great interest in her husband's work and, not surprisingly, their three children are all animal-lovers. Their daughter worked at the Zoo as a keeper before getting married and their oldest son is now a Farm Manager; their other child is still at school. Other inmates of the Wait household apart from hand-rearings at the time, are a brindled Great Dane and a cat that pays occasional visits but appears to have another home elsewere!

Mr. Wait enjoys photography, particularly when using animals as subjects, and when time permits likes to further his 15 years

experience in this field. Photographs which are taken are usually made into slides which he adds to his large collection for use in the many talks and lectures he is requested to deliver. Townswomen's Guilds, P.T.A., Young Conservatives, Pensioners Clubs, Round Table and Rotary Club are just a few of his eager listeners. Mr. Wait's work is virtually his hobby so nothing could be better for the animals entrusted to his care.

During 1978, Mr. and Mrs. Wait celebrated their silver Wedding Anniversary and became grand-parents; no doubt they will introduce their grandson to the world of animals.

W. H. TIMMIS—CURATOR OF BIRDS/PRIMATES

Mr. William Timmis started his employment at Chester Zoo in June 1952 working on the Bird Section until June 1958. From that time onwards until the middle of 1959 he travelled through Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Eventually, he worked in Jersey Zoo on all sections and then in 1960, he settled in Sydney at Taronga Park working mainly with Gorillas; in 1961 he was appointed Curator of Reptiles. During the six years he spent in Australia he was sent on a number of expeditions; among these are the 1963 USA and Mexico Expedition, 1964 Central New Guinea Bird of Paradise Collecting Expedition and in 1966 New Guinea and the Pacific Islands. Mr. Timmis recalls that the most interesting one was when he was sent to Komodo to collect six Komodo Dragons; two were destined for China, two for Russia and two for Australia.

In April 1966 Mr. Timmis returned to Chester Zoo and was appointed Curator of Birds and Mammals. 1973 once more saw him paying a return visit to Indonesia on a six week expedition and the Island of Komodo; in 1974 he was a member of the Libyan and Chad Expedition. During this year Mr. Timmis was a Member of the 1978 Wallace Expedition to Amazonia; the work which was done during the three months he was there is at present being analysed and the results will eventually be published.

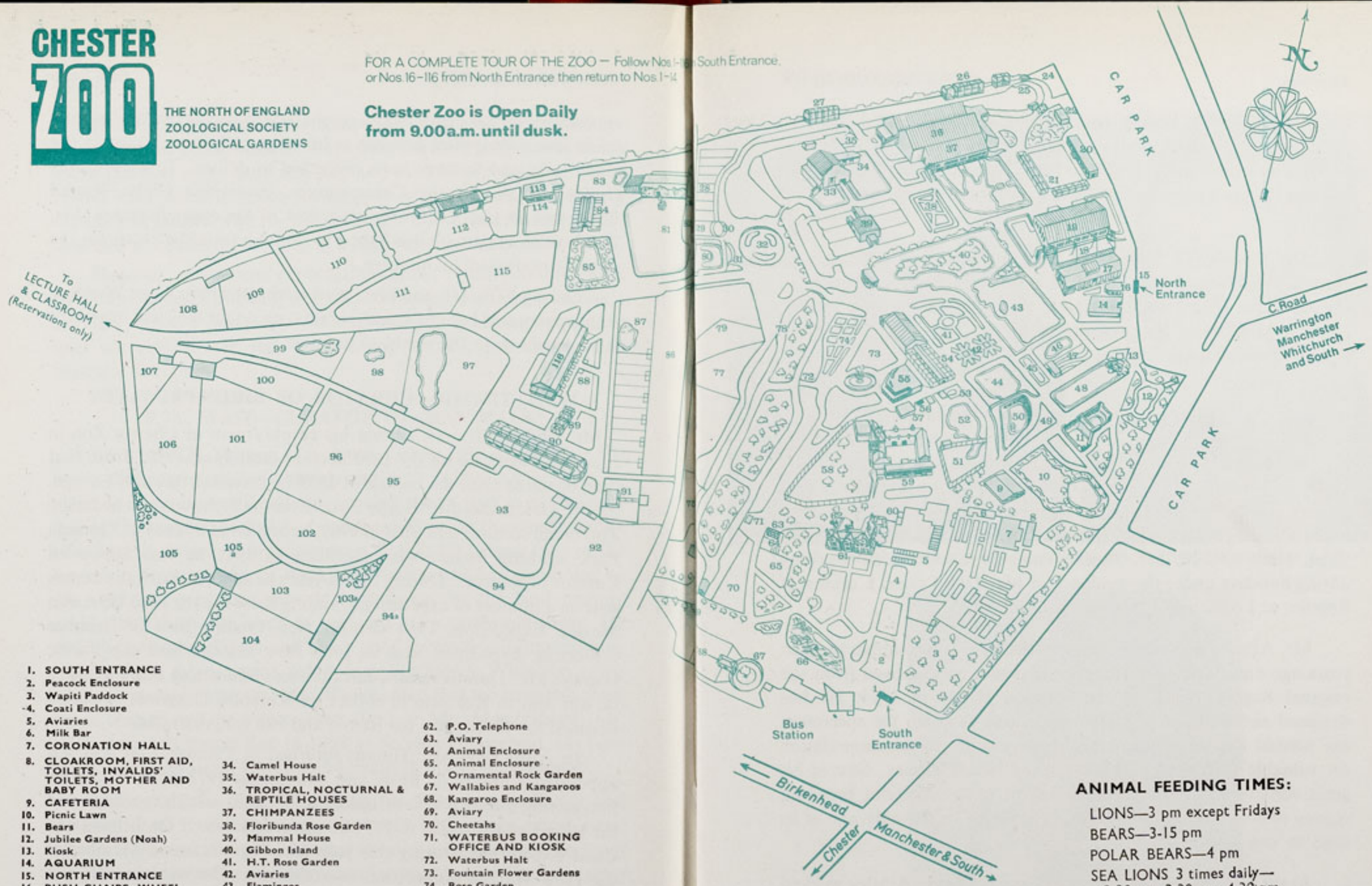
His main interests are in the breeding, biology and reproduction of birds and travelling to remote regions of the world. Over the years Mr. Timmis has built up a large private collection of books, mainly on ornithology, but also a large number on herpetology in which he is interested.

CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

FOR A COMPLETE TOUR OF THE ZOO — Follow Nos 1–[illegible] 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, INVALIDS' TOILETS, MOTHER AND BABY ROOM
9. CAFETERIA
10. Picnic Lawn
11. Bears
12. Jubilee Gardens (Noah)
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 Hyaena 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. Big 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. Wallabies and Kangaroos
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. Brown Bears
81. ELEPHANTS
82. Hippos
83. Tapirs
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Ankole Cattle
87. Emus, Cranes and Flamingos
88. Outside Monkey Enclosures
89. Baboon Pens
90. Cat House
91. Tiger Enclosures
92. Antelope [illegible]ostrich
93. Antelope [illegible]ure
94. Antelope [illegible]ure
94a. Llamas
95. Zebras
96. Zebras
97. Waterfow[illegible]losure
98. Waterfow[illegible]losure
99. Waterfow[illegible]losure
100. Blackbuck
101. Wallabies
102. Animal E[illegible]re
103. Wallabies
103a. Reindeer
104. Pere David's Deer Paddock
105. Przewalski's Horses
105a. Onager
106. Arabian Gazelles
107. Musk Oxen
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

Mr. and Mrs. Timmis have often had to provide a home at short notice for young monkeys and apes whose mothers cannot or will not look after them. It falls to Mrs. Timmis to spend long hours coaxing the youngsters to feed from a bottle and cleaning up behind them.

Mr. Timmis is a Member of many societies and these include Council Member of the World Pheasant Association, Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, Fellow of the Linnean Society, Council Member of the Avicultural Society, and Member of the British Ornithologists' Union.

R. AINSLEY—CURATOR OF REPTILES

Mr. Roger Ainsley is one of the longest serving Members of Staff—in January 1979 he will have completed 25 years service. From an early age he was interested in animals and was able to keep them at the boarding school which he attended. Originally from Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire, Mr. Ainsley came to Chester after working during holidays under the guidance of Mr. Jack Lester, Curator of Reptiles at London Zoo and Whipsnade Zoo.

Mr. Ainsley was made Cuator of Reptiles approximately seven years ago and during the years he has spent here, moved from the original Reptile House to the Tropical House in 1964. He has designed and built many of the enclosures in which the specimens are housed and is still making improvements to accommodation for valuable specimens so as to suit individual species. One of his great achievements is the establishment of a successful breeding colony of Solomon Island Skinks, believed to be the only one of its kind in the world!

At the beginning of his career at Chester, Roger Ainsley worked on the Bird Section but when the time came for a choice it was the Reptiles which were to be his favourite; however, he still has an interest in birds, particularly Birds of Prey. His other main interest is the showing and breeding of Dobermann Pinschers of which his wife, Jill, is a judge. Their four year old twins, Leianna and Phillip, are very fond of these large, handsome dogs, and also take an interest in the reptiles cared for by their father.

MR. P. WAIT (*Curator of Mammals*)

MR. W. TIMMIS (*Curator of Birds & Primates*)

MR. R. AINSLEY (*Curator of Reptiles*)

THE 1978 WALLACE EXPEDITION TO AMAZONIA

This is the first of a series of articles written by W. H. Timmis, Curator of Birds and Primates, upon the 1978 Wallace Expedition to Amazonia.

The Amazon basin lies mostly in Brazil and covers an impressive expanse of territory, roughly three million square miles. Most of the basin is covered by tropical rain forest, a jungle known in Brazil as "inferno verde"—green hell.

The Amazonian tropical rain forest, (selva), is the most extensive in the world and throughout its range shows five distinct horizontal layers of foliage. The forest is very dense, forming continuous canopies at several high levels. This limits the amount of light reaching the ground, and the plants at different levels are therefore adapted to the varying light intensities and humidities. Nearly all the plants are evergreen and lose their leaves whilst growing new ones simultaneously throughout the year. Seasons are not pronounced where the rain forest grows; the even temperature and constant rainfall allow this continuous growth.

The five levels of forest are:

"A" LEVEL

This layer above 35m (110 feet) contains the tallest trees, known as emergents, which can grow up to 50m (160 feet). The canopy of each tree is umbrella-shaped and has room to spread sideways; branches and leaves only grow on the top 6-9m (20-50 feet), leaving the other 30m (100 feet) as bare trunk.

"B" AND "C" LEVELS

These levels are 20m (65 feet) and 16m (45 feet), respectively. They contain mature trees which are more closely packed than those in "A" level. These dense canopies cannot spread sideways so the trees have conical crowns. The "A,B" and "C" levels contain the specially adapted epiphytes, plants which grow on other plants and whose roots do not reach the ground, but rather obtain their essential supplies from the surface and tissues of the plants on which they grow, and lianas, creepers whose roots are in the ground but which cannot support themselves above ground. Instead, lianas rely for their support on the trunks of the trees growing in the forest and often grow from tree to tree, linking all the crowns.

FOREST CANOPY

FOREST TRAILS

DUG-OUT CANOE

INDIAN VILLAGE

All Photos by courtesy of ***W. H. Timmis****, Curator of Birds and Primates,* ***Chester Zoo***

"D" LEVEL

This level is the shrub and sapling layer at 5m (15 feet) which is not very dense due to low light intensity. The seedlings of the dominant tree species are able to survive here, but only grow a few centimetres a year. However, if a large tree falls the light is let in, and they grow very rapidly to become canopy trees.

"E" LEVEL

Only one hundreth of the available sunlight reaches the ground level. The vegetation is sparse, only a few herbaceous plants existing amongst the thin layer of fallen leaves and decaying wood. The soil beneath is very poor in nutrients which are leached away by the high rainfall; many of the trees have large buttresses at the base which may provide added support, especially during floods. The bark is very thin (only 1-2mm), the constant high humidity making a thick bark unnecessary.

The Amazon rain forest straddles the Equator and has an annual rainfall of more than 1500mm, (60 ins), with little or no seasonal variation in amount. Day temperatures average 27C (80F). This combination of high temperature and constant rainfall is the most favourable on Earth for plant growth. The resulting evergreen rain forest, the Selva, is built up from many plant varieties forming vegetation layers of varying density. The deep red, iron-rich, (biteritic), soil formed beneath the Amazon forest becomes baked when exposed to the sun; it is then easily eroded by the heavy rainfall and so is unsuitable for agriculture.

In the unexplored areas of Amazonia, roads and air strips are fortunately still few and far between and it is the rivers that are the arteries of access and communication. Narrow, winding trails, cut by the Indians indigenous to the area, are the only important routes between villages or from one river to another, but where these are lacking it may at times be necessary to cut paths through the forest. Trails through the forest are seldom, if ever, visible from the air, and where shown on base maps are apt to be generalized and inaccurate. Even those tracks used by the Indians on a regular basis tend to be allowed to fall into disuse as fresh ones are cut to new fields and settlements in the forest, or as required by fishermen, hunters, rubber tappers or Brazil-nut gatherers. Disused trails become completely overgrown within two years. Although local guides can be of great assistance, especially when it comes to showing the trails that are actually in use and where they start from, it was found that their guidance had to be treated with extreme caution and the route always surveyed. All expeditions to forested regions have in common the problems of access, navigation and accurate positioning in an environment where visibility is severely limited to as little as five metres, as well as the difficulties of working and caring for equipment in a humid atmosphere.

The Amazon rain forest has gradually acquired a very large number of different species of plants and animals. For example whereas we are accustomed to a temperate deciduous forest with perhaps a dozen tree species, or a Northern evergreen forest with only one or two tree species, an 11 acre section of the Mocambo forest on the outskirts of Belém has been found to contain 295 species of trees. While the state of Pennsylvania, USA is known to contain approximately 185 breeding bird species, within the city

limits of Belém alone there are records of over 425 bird species, almost all of them resident.

The forest, including swamps and scrubland, covers thousands of acres of the Amazon basin. Until fairly recently it had remained untouched except by the Indian tribes who live mainly along the river banks. The building of roads and small airfields has now opened up vast areas previously inaccessible. Brazil is a developing country and has a relatively small population which is increasing rapidly; for its development Brazil needs timber, fuel and minerals which are found in and beneath parts of the forest. The forest is being cleared mainly to be used for cattle ranching or plantations; with these resources managed properly, Brazil could become one of the world's richest countries. At present it is at the same stage of development as North America was when the West was being opened up, in the days of the "Wild West".

Unfortunately, some of the mistakes made in North America are being repeated in the hurry to get things done. The changes are beginning to affect the whole ecology of the forest and the Indians living there.

* * *

Next Month: Bill Timmis tells us of the journey to the Amazon region from England, and the building of the base camp from which the team worked.

GARDENING NOTES

With having an unusually mild Autumn this year the Gardeners had to keep mowing the lawns until the middle of November; mowing conditions, however, were very good as the rainfall was well below average during October and November.

The shrubs are being pruned, the ground being raked out to clear any rubbish and then pricked over with a fork. Berries have lasted much longer on the shrubs this Autumn as the severe weather during which the birds usually ate the berries, was late in coming.

When the tuberous *Begonia* were lifted from the flower beds last October they were put in a cool greenhouse to dry off. Now they

are being completely cleaned of soil and dried before storing them in boxes and covering with dry sand; during the Winter they must be stored in a cool, dry and frostproof place.

Several species of *Cotoneaster exburyensis*, six to eight feet high, are to be seen in the Gardens; this particular variety has a yellow berry. Other species of the genus around the Zoo are *horizontalis* which, as the name implies, is flat-growing and is good for growing against a low wall or on flat ground covering stones; during the Autumn it has masses of red berries. The *horizontalis* can be seen on a wall near the entrance to the Tropical House. *Frigida* is tall growing, fifteen feet, and looks well growing above other shrubs with its red berries. *Hybrida pendula* is growing on the rockeries; it is above five feet tall and the red berries look lovely on branches which droop down. The name *Cotoneaster* comes from an old Latin name for a *Quince*.

The two trees of *Prunus subhirtella*, "*Autumnalis rosea*", which flower in mild spells during the Winter have started off very well with an abundance of flowers; these trees are situated at the end of the Monkey House.

Leycesteria formosa is an attractive shrub which flowers during late Summer and into the Autumn. The common name is *Himalayan Honeysuckle* or *Flowering Nutmeg*. This was discovered in the Himalayas by a former Chief Justice in Bengal, W. Leycester, and is named after him. The name *Formosa* refers to the handsome shrub, it has wine coloured bracts and white flowers drooping down. Once established it must be pruned back to the old wood in April.

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

Printed in England by
W. H. Evans & Sons Ltd.
Sealand Road Trading Estate
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