

# “OUR ZOO NEWS”

A monthly chronicle of news of The North of England Zoological Society.

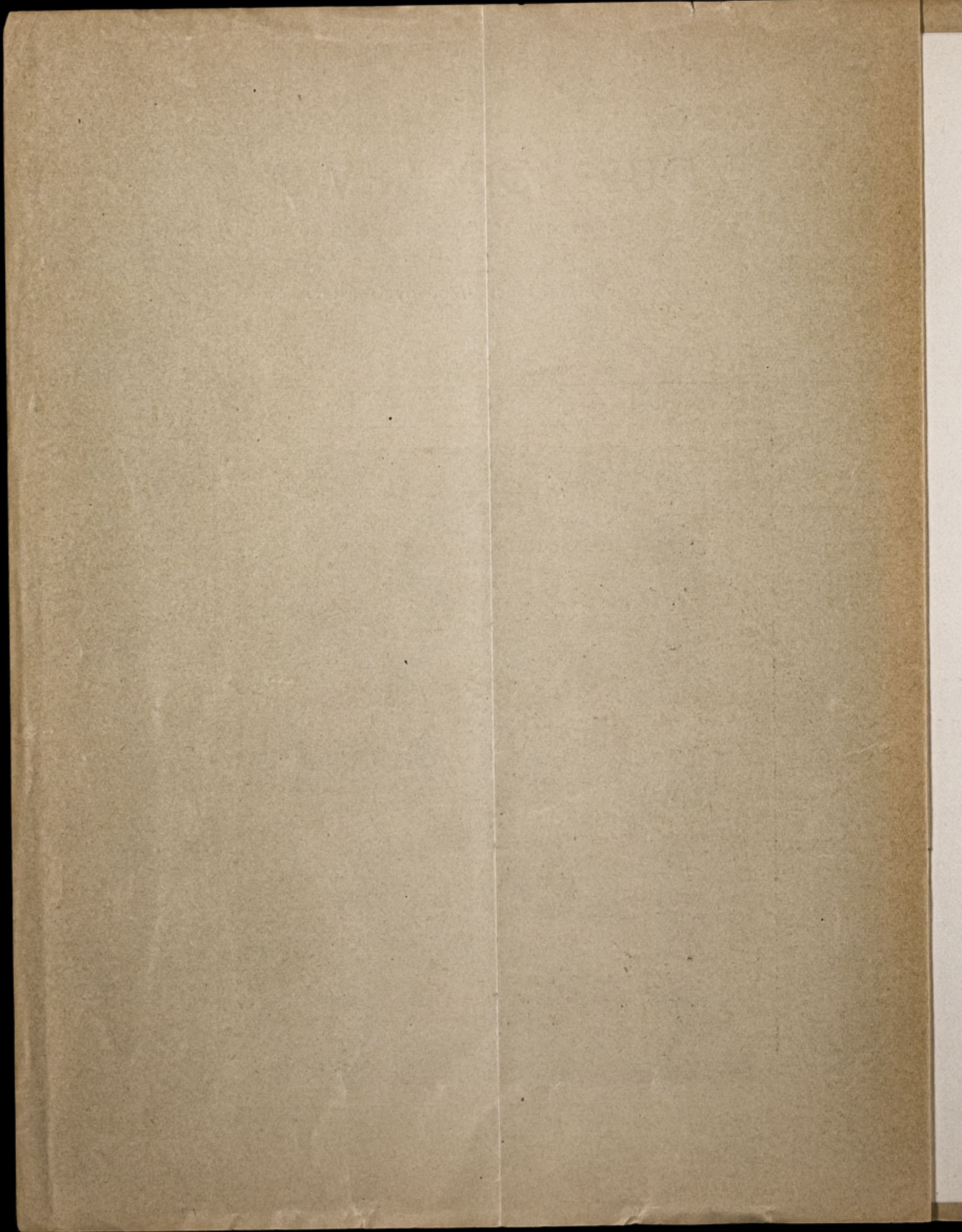
Zoological Gardens, Upton-by-Chester.

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THE LIONESS "KATRINA."



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Number Twelve.

October 1938

Since our last issue the Zoo has been threatened with what might have been its utter destruction, this was the threat of war. Everyone knows that in the event of war, Zoos have to reduce their stocks considerably on account of feeding, but modern warfare to-day would have presented far greater difficulties and the moment might easily have arrived when for sheer safety's sake and humane consideration we would have been called upon to shoot the animals to which we are so attached.

That we have been spared the horrors of war makes us so thankful that we must not grumble at the enormous loss the mere threat of it has cost the Zoo.

That we shall have to make up that loss we all know and we sincerely hope that not only members but also the public will step forward and help at this critical period.

September has seen several new additions to the Zoo, among these being a Russian Bear cub presented by Messrs. Lewis's, Ltd; and a very fine female Hyena from J. Bland Esq in Nigeria.

We have received word that we are to expect sometime in October a young Lioness which is being presented by Sir Bernard Bourdillon G.C.M.G; K.B.E, also some more Crowned Cranes, a Porcupine, and several assorted birds from Sir Donald Kingdon K.C;K.B. The Society is very fortunate in having such friends, and if all goes well the Zoo should have an exceptionally fine collection to present to the public next Spring.

How many readers we wonder heard our Zoo praised in the broadcast talk on the 9th September in "My Weekend Out-of-Doors" series by that excellent speaker Mr. William Aspden. That these talks are listened to by a large number of listeners can be judged by the remarks of visitors to the Zoo who have expressed their appreciation of the interesting subjects taken, and how delighted they were to hear of the Zoo at Chester.

In the Aquarium this month we have been able to add several more fish. W.B. Hutchinson Esq presented us with several specimens including Wasp Gobies, Panchax Lineatus, Neon Tetra, Jewel Fish etc.

In the cold water section several Pike have been added, and prove an excellent exhibit.

The number of fish now on view numbers several hundred divided into about fifty different varieties, an achievement we hardly dared to hope for when we launched the aquarium extension in the early months of the year.

There is something about an aquarium that appeals to most visitors to the Zoo. Perhaps it is the constant change of life which is always taking place, the new varieties which keep coming, or the wonderful beauties which inhabit the tropical waters but are only seen to advantage in a well lighted aquarium.

This Winter the aquarium should be a distinct attraction, for whatever the day one can spend endless time watching the fish and observing their quaint habits. Since we restarted the Tropical section in the Spring, we have had almost continually at least one tank producing young.

The live bearers are constantly bringing fourth families, but these are not so interesting as their young are independent from birth. It is the egg-laying species which provide the greatest interest. Some cleaning a stone and laying their eggs on it, and continually fanning their eggs with their fins. Others make nests of bubbles, while some lay their eggs on weeds. Which ever way it is the interest created is both a joy and education.

Owing to the arrival of the new Hyena which has had to go into quarantine, the Ocelot has had to be moved and a new outdoor cage both roomy and well protected has been made for him next to the Malayan Bears, or by No.3 direction arrow.

Here he will be able to bask in the sun surrounded by many trees while a certain amount of scrub has been left growing in his new home, we hope he will be happy and contented.

It was the Ocelot that Mr. Aspden referred to in his broadcast as being the only animal in the whole Zoo that appeared caged. Having apparently for years been kept in a small cage before he came to Chester, he continually trod over and over again in a given space despite the fact that he had a large cage. We shall watch carefully what his reaction will be now he is placed in a sort of semi-wild pen.

Although the weather conditions have not been too good, the Monkeys which were transferred to the old African Grey Parrot aviary, seem decidedly better than when in their various indoor cages, they have become more agile, and one or two that had been pets, and suffered from too much mistaken kindness, have definitely improved.

We are pleased to report that the young Tiger is definitely making good progress, and is beginning to look more like the animal he was supposed to be. We had very grave fears soon after he arrived whether we would be able to rear him or not, but his progress during the last few weeks gives us every encouragement.

#### Zoo Characters.

##### "Big Boy"

Everyone knows Big Boy, our youngest Chimpanzee, who was presented to us in April 1937 by W. Darwall Esq. He is a great favourite with many on account of his antics.

Unfortunately early this year he contracted a severe attack of Pneumonia and proved to be the worst invalid we have ever had, refusing everything that was done for his benefit. The result being that the attack was very prolonged, and it has left him with a very weak chest, but it does not appear to have damped his spirits in the least and he will throw himself about until he is utterly exhausted.

He had a scooter sent to him the other day but instead of riding it in the orthodox fashion he stands backwards on it with his arms over his head, and goes round and round his cage to the amusement of the visitors.



Ever since the start we have had to run at a loss. This was inevitable for a Society which has no share capital and had no funds to start with. It is gratifying to know that this loss is rapidly diminishing, but the fact remains that the accumulated loss is over £1,000. We must try to wipe out this burden entirely.

Once we can put the Society straight, our progress would be much greater and our minds much happier. It has been ascertained by careful investigation that if we were in the position to put down an efficient feeding plant, to enable us to buy in greater quantities, our saving would almost wipe out our loss. With this object in view, we hope that each member will do his or her share, some members might only manage a little, but it will help, but we hope that we have some friends who will be able to help us a lot.

Remember this, the Zoo is not run for commercial reasons, it is established to provide a fitting zoological collection for the North of England, and as such becomes one of the essential undertakings to provide an educational centre for natural history.

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