

# "OUR ZOO NEWS"

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

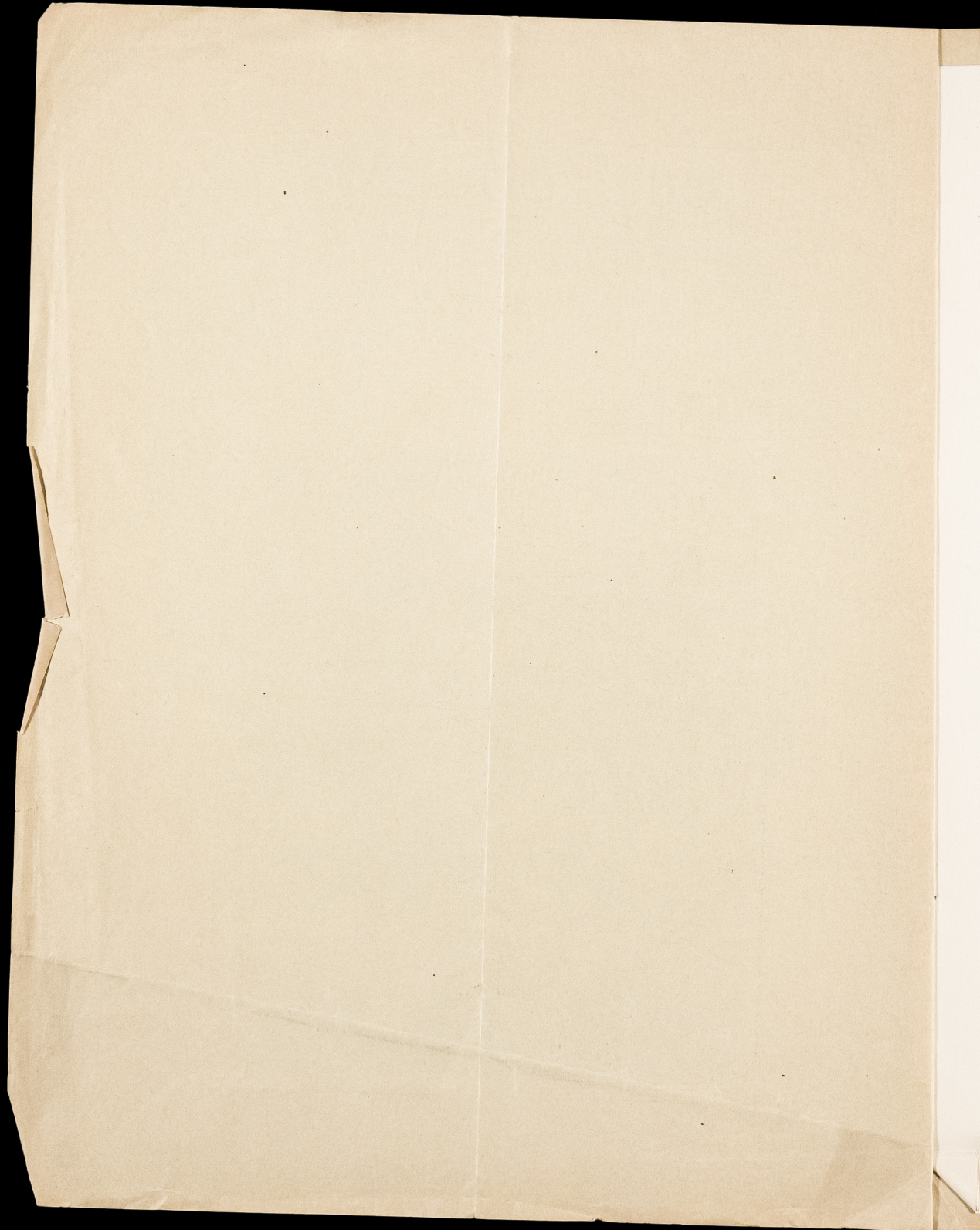
Zoological Gardens, Upton-by-Chester.

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THE LIONESS "KATRINA."



"Our Zoo News"

Number Six

April 1938.

We apologise to readers for being late with our April issue of "Our Zoo News," but we are sure all will realise that the weeks before Easter are exceptionally busy when every effort has to be made to be ready for the season's real opening.

March on the whole has been a promising month, and the attendance has been well up on the preceding years, after taking due account of those years in which Easter came in the month.

Once again we are able to record another birth in the Zoo, this time an Indian Rhesus Monkey gave birth to a bonny baby, both Mother and baby are doing very well.

"Dawn" the baby Mandrill will be six months old on the 25th of April, and according to several Zoologists will thus break a European record. It appears our Mandrill was the first to be born in this country, the Mandrill has bred in Germany several times but the young have never lived beyond six weeks. There seems every possibility that "George" and "Sarah's" baby will reach maturity.

The Griffon Vultures have again laid, and we hope they will successfully incubate this egg.

Several exchanges with other Zoos are being contemplated, and we hope will be executed before Easter. Among the new specimens we are expecting are, Wallabies, Ocelot Tigercat, and Rhea, unfortunately we have not been able to get the Tiger in time for Easter.

In our last issue we said we hoped to add at least another six tanks to the Aquarium before Easter. It now appears likely that twelve or thirteen tanks will be completed, if not stocked with fish they will be matured sufficiently to receive fish soon after Easter.

Most people do not realise that tropical fish cannot be put into new or fresh water. The water has to become what is known as mature or aged, and the balance of both animal and plant life must be kept right, or instead of a thing of beauty the Aquarium would become very unsightly, and also suffer from loss of fish.

We have just received a very kind gift of a quantity of plate glass which will no doubt enable us to add many more tanks to our Aquarium during the next few months, and we feel sure that before long visitors will be able to spend quite a considerable time admiring the varied collection of tropical beauties.

As we mentioned before we are working very hard to be ready for Easter, and we hope that members will do their share by talking about the Zoo to all their friends, and doing all in their power to make it more popular.

Probably there are several members who could distribute leaflets and showcards advertising the Zoo. We should be very pleased to send these to any member if they will please let us know what quantity they could dispose of.

Zoo Characters.

"Kiki"

As members are no doubt aware, Kiki is a rare Checko Chimpanzee most people call the Black-faced, but she is a distinct variety of the ordinary Black-faced Chimpanzee.

Kiki was presented to the Zoo in December 1935 by R. Hyde Esq., and came direct from the Congo. She arrived quite free from crate or chain having had complete freedom all her life, first in the jungle and then as Mr. Hyde's pet in his compound. She accompanied him on his voyage back to England in December 1935.

All members are not aware that she is perhaps the only specimen of her kind in this country. We understand another specimen is in the Berlin Zoo, but apart from that we know of no others.

The difference between Kiki and the other Chimpanzees is that she exhibits a tremendous amount of Gorilla characteristics. She beats her chest in true Gorilla fashion, and also has the Gorilla gait. In many ways her physical developments also favour the Gorilla, and most naturalists are agreed that the Checko Chimpanzee is the descendant of a fusion between the Gorilla and the Chimpanzee probably several hundred years ago.

In character Kiki is more staid than the other Chimpanzees although she is exceedingly active and always interested in something. Her strength is tremendous and we are continually having to repair her cage. She is intelligent enough to know that by using a lever she can obtain far more purchase on anything than if she used a direct pull, and she will work continually to obtain anything which she can use for this purpose.

When she is definitely determined to get out of her cage it is almost impossible to keep her in. She refuses to be persuaded like the other Chimpanzees, and the only method which distracts her from her object is for someone to walk into the Monkey House with a snake. Evidently she has a natural fear of them, and she has only to see someone with one and her

attention is at once riveted on to it. Many times lately if we had not been able to produce one of these reptiles Kiki would have dismantled her cage before our very eyes.

We never go near her with the snake, the very fact that she knows there is one in the vicinity is sufficient to take her attention from what she is doing.

"Henrietta"

Henrietta had to be called this name, for when she was born, or at least when she emerged from the nest she was called Henry. Upon reaching the age of two years it was definitely established that Henry was a female, so we had no other option than to call her Henrietta.

Henrietta is an Indian Ring-necked Parrakeet and was born in our aviaries two years ago. Unfortunately she has a deformed foot but this does not seem to trouble her in the least. Owing to this deformity when she became independent of her parents we thought of destroying her, but someone pleaded

to let her go, and she was allowed her full liberty.

Today visitors see her flying about the grounds paying a visit first to one aviary then another, and at times she can be seen flying across the open fields into the country, but she always returns and will suddenly swoop down from the air right in front of some visitors whom she knows have some tit-bits.

She has always been fed and watered on the top of the aviary where she was born, and she regularly returns to that spot whenever she is hungry.

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Henrietta is not the only liberty bird we have at the Zoo, there are several, and we feel sure that visitors will appreciate the marvellous flights which are performed by some of them.

A sister of Henrietta who is a year older than her is now engaged incubating a nest of eggs.

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