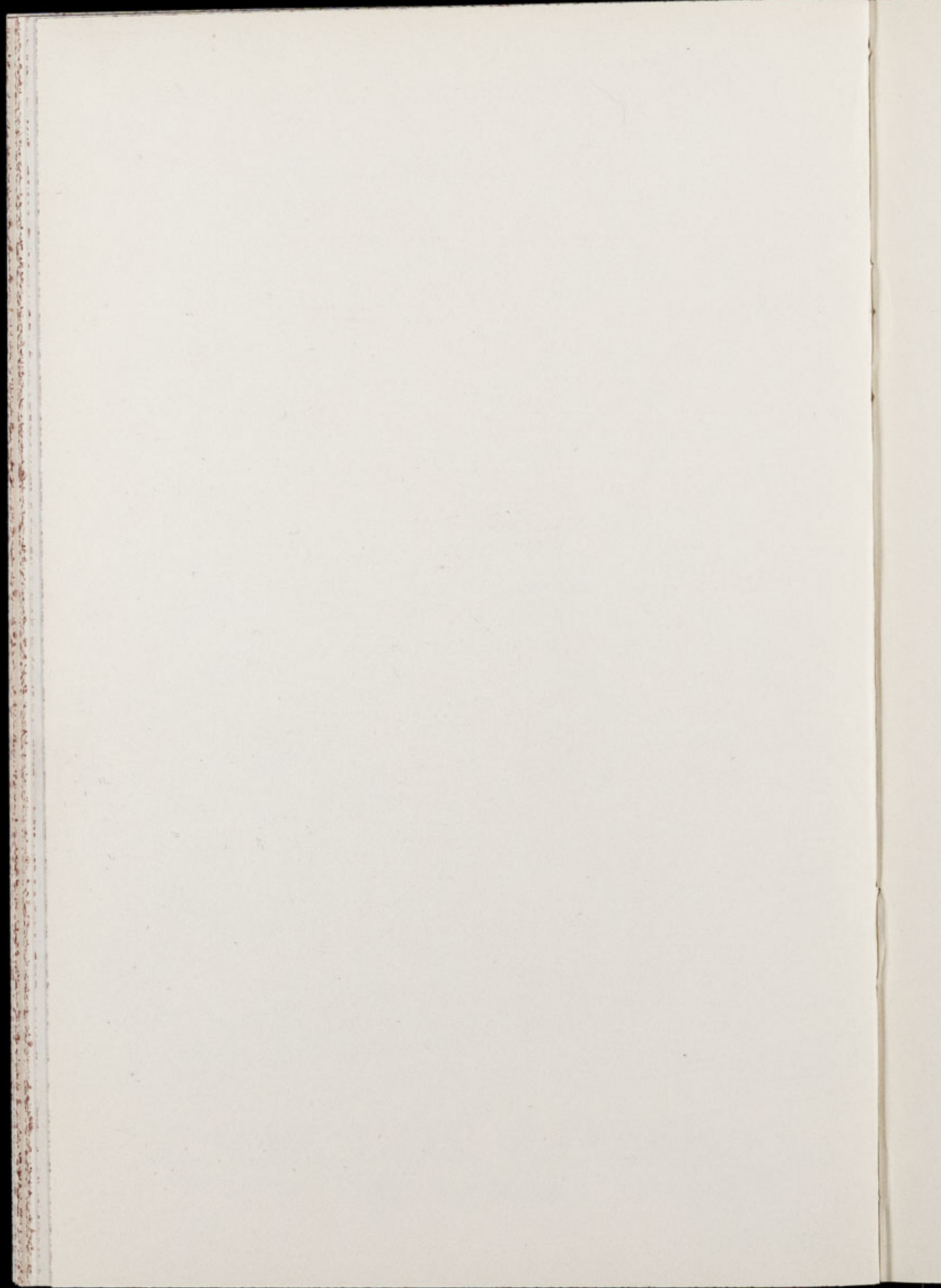




CHESTER ZOO NEWS
AND GUIDE

June 1969

Price 1/-



The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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COVER: This month's cover shows 'Mukisi', our Mountain Gorilla.

By Courtesy of Ron Broster, Liverpool Daily Post.

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ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

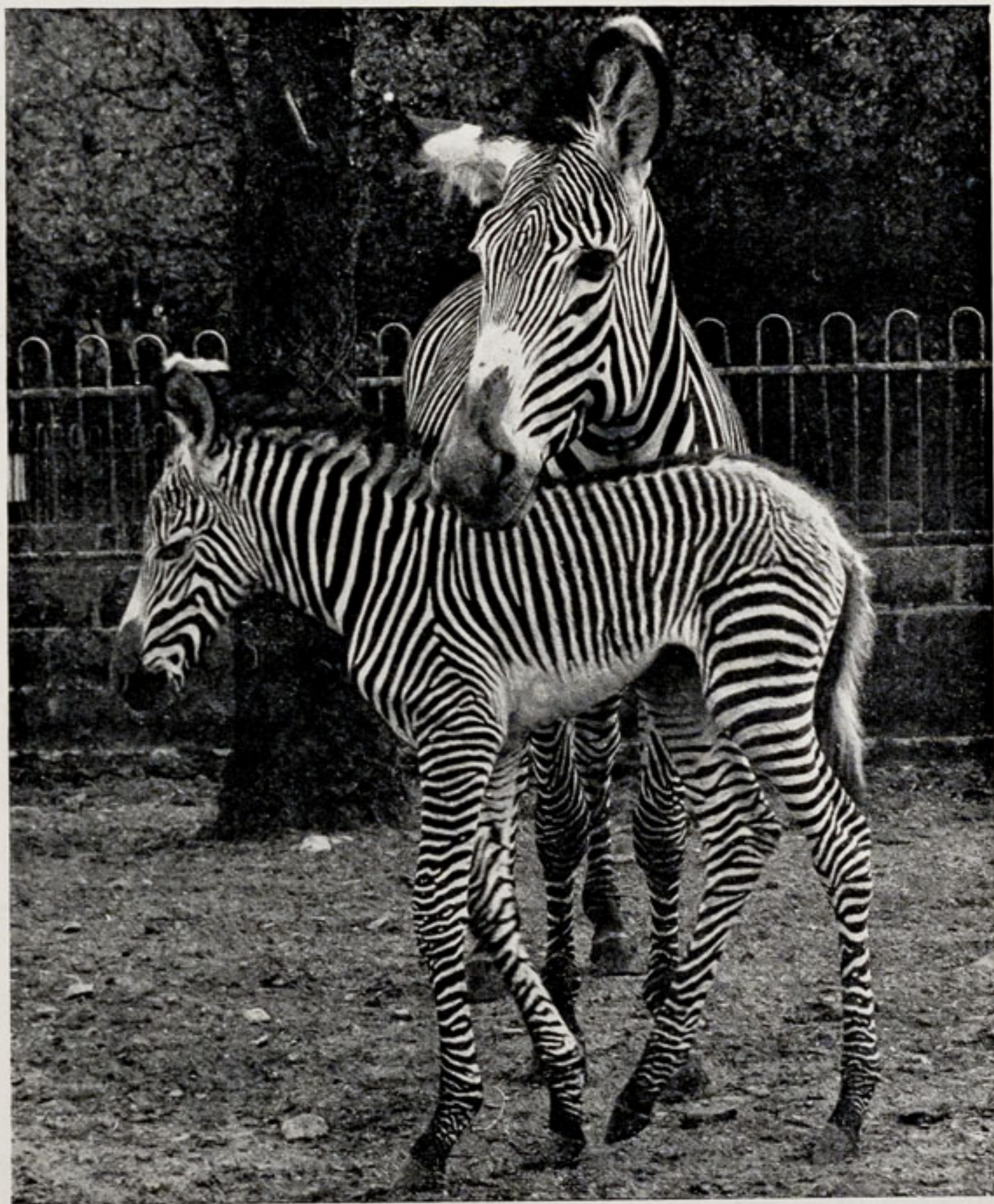
Now that firearms are readily available to the Arabs, more Arabian Gazelles are being killed in their natural habitat and in consequence they are becoming extremely rare.

For this reason it is comforting to note that Chester Zoo is one of only two Zoos in the country to have a breeding herd of Arabian Gazelles and earlier this month Thamooda, the only female in the herd to have been reared by a Keeper, produced a male fawn.

It is often found that animals which have been hand reared fail to breed, as they become too attached to their foster parents; this however has never been the case with Thamooda, as she has shown her independence ever since she was a few days old. Her fawn is a great attraction to everyone and brings the total of Arabian Gazelles at the Zoo to ten.

As there is a complete ban on the importation of Zebras direct from Africa, it is important that the specimens in this country breed in captivity. On 20th May, 1969, there was the very welcome birth of a male Grevy Zebra; these are the largest species of Zebra standing over five feet high at the shoulder and weighing about ten hundred-weights. This latest arrival brings the total to ten, all of which are to be found in the Zebra House.

When young, Llamas are most appealing in their colouring and the baby Llama born on 21st May, 1969, is no exception. Janine, as she has been named by her Keeper, is mainly pure white with a pale brown patch on one side and black markings on her head. She must have been a popular arrival with her sire, as at the time of birth he stood guard against the Alpacas and Zebroids on the other side of the fence. At birth Llamas are very well developed and in fact the young are nearly always on their feet relatively soon after having been born.



GREVY ZEBRA AND FOAL

Mel Grundy, Deva Press Agency

A baby Sooty Mangabey is on view with both parents in one of the spacious glass cages in the Monkey House. This species of Monkey is found in the thick forests of West and Central Africa; they are wonderful climbers, rarely descending to the ground. As their name implies, Sooty Mangabeys are a dark grey-black colour and have white eyelids which are thought to add emphasis to their facial expressions which are used to a large extent to communicate with one another.

Rufous-bellied Wallabies are very secretive in their habits, as the keepers of the Wallaby paddock next to the Waterbus Booking Office have found. It is only recently that they have noticed a baby in the mother's pouch, although it is already several months old and should now begin to venture out of the pouch in an attempt to gain independence.

As Amur Leopard Cubs develop very slowly and require a great deal of care and attention, the latest baby of this species will not be on show to the public until it is about two months old. Last year an Amur Leopard cub was bred at the Zoo for the first time and it is hoped the mother of the latest arrival will look after her young cub as successfully as its predecessor.

Other births include a Highland Calf and the third Père David's Deer to be born this year.

STEPHEN WEAVER AND THE GIBBON

On all Chester Zoo Guides one can find the words "In the interest of animal health, feeding by visitors is prohibited". This is one of the Zoo Regulations which should be strictly adhered to; however, it can occasionally cause stress, as in the case of Stephen Weaver.

Stephen lives in Essex but whilst on holiday in North Wales he decided to visit Chester Zoo. One of the animals which he seemed

to find fascinating was the lone Gibbon in its cage opposite the Waterbus Booking Office. This animal was at one time on the Gibbon Island but as he could not live amicably with his fellows, had to be separated.

Quite without thinking, Stephen pushed his arms through the railings and began to unwrap a sweet. Suddenly the Gibbon swung down, grabbed the sweet from the boy's hand and devoured it.

As he looked up, Stephen saw the "No Feeding" sign and felt that he had committed a really dreadful crime.

Later in the day, Stephen was so fraught by his conscience that he decided to confess the whole incident to the Police. However, there was nothing that could either be said or done to ease Stephen's feeling of guilt, because he was convinced that he had murdered the gibbon.

Eventually, the Police telephoned the Zoo in order to find out whether or not the Gibbon was ill. It was only after hearing that the animal was alive and well that Stephen was pacified. This must surely be the most memorable visit to the Zoo that he is ever likely to have!

CONFERENCE MONTH

The past month can justly be described as Conference Month at the Zoo. On the 1st May, delegates from the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums who were undertaking a tour of European Zoos visited the Zoo. The delegates were given a short tour of the Gardens, including a trip on our Waterbus, which saved some of the walking. Fortunately the weather was glorious for this occasion.

Monday, 12th May, was the beginning of a very busy week for Chester Zoo; not only was the Annual General Meeting of the

Federation of Zoos held at the Oakfield Restaurant but also the 20th Annual Conference of English, Scottish and Irish Zoo Directors.

On Tuesday 13th May, as a prelude to the coming Conference, there was a gathering of members of the Federation and Zoo Directors from throughout the British Isles; this enabled the delegates to meet colleagues and to take a leisurely walk around the Zoo.

The 20th Annual Conference of Zoo Directors commenced on Wednesday, 14th May, with Miss G. M. Russell-Allen, welcoming the delegates.

Most of the three days duration of the Conference was spent in discussions on subjects ranging from "Anthelmintics", "Zoo Education", "Control and Management of Mixed Exhibits in a Zoo", together with the many problems relating to Zoo Management.

However, to break the strain of continual meetings, tours of Chester Zoological Gardens, Chester Zoo's Laboratory and Breeding Station and The Veterinary Field Station at Leahurst had been arranged, all of which were of interest to the delegates.

The evenings were spent purely in enjoyment; the Directors were able to relax completely and in the company of their wives, enjoy the programme which had been planned.

On Wednesday evening the delegates and their wives visited Peckforton Castle by the kind invitation of the Rt. Hon. Lord Tollemache and then enjoyed a meal at the "Wild Boar" in Beeston.

Thursday evening saw entertainment of a different kind when they attended a Mediaeval Banquet at Ruthin Castle; Mead and Perry were provided and the food was eaten with a dagger.



MR. MOTTERSHEAD WITH SOME OF THE A.A.Z.P.A. DELEGATES

Jack Smith

GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

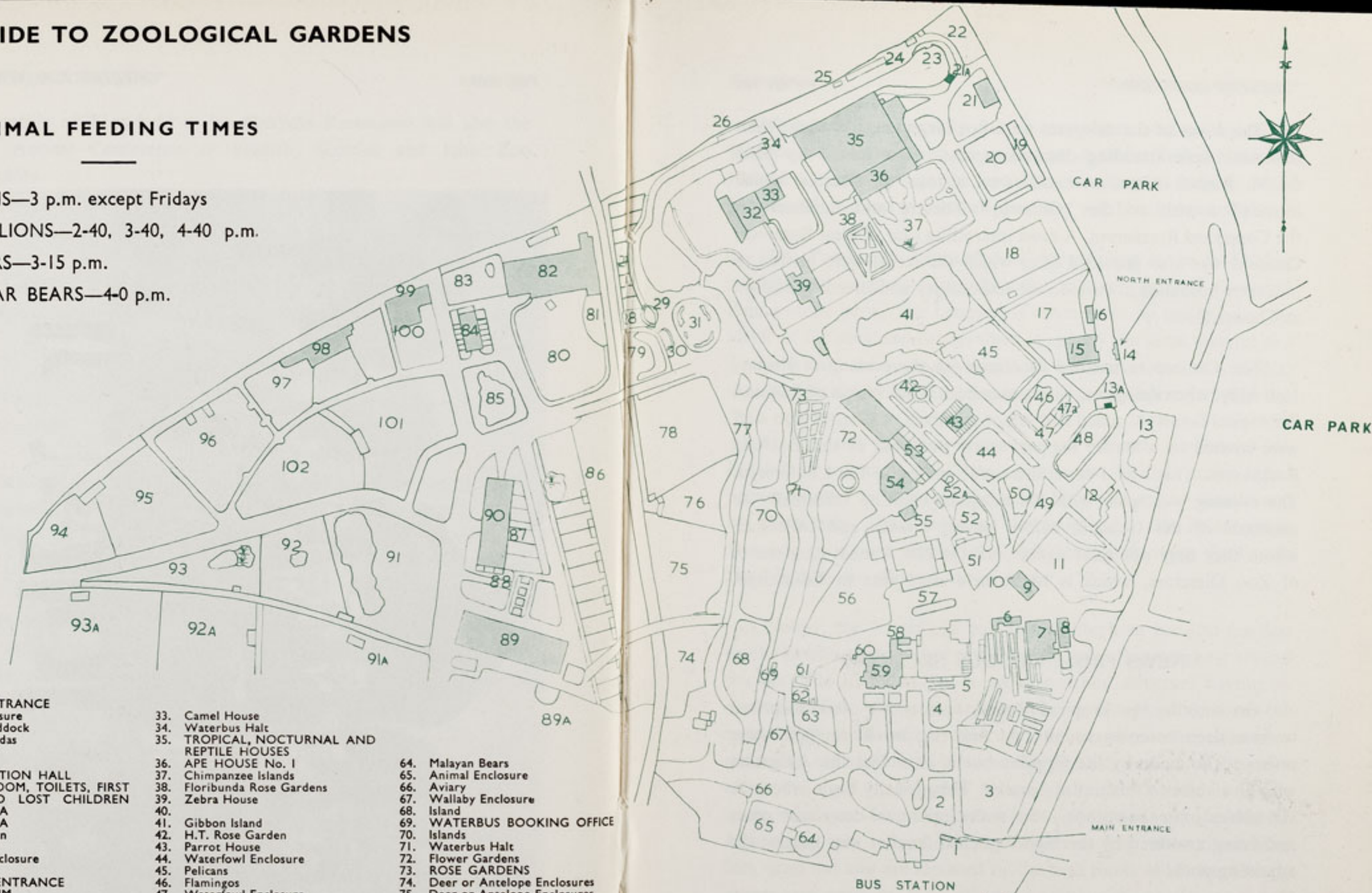
LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

SEA LIONS—2-40, 3-40, 4-40 p.m.

BEARS—3-15 p.m.

POLAR BEARS—4-0 p.m.

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|--|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. MAIN ENTRANCE | 33. Camel House | 64. Malayan Bears |
| 2. Bird Enclosure | 34. Waterbus Halt | 65. Animal Enclosure |
| 3. Wapiti Paddock | 35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES | 66. Aviary |
| 4. Lesser Pandas | 36. APE HOUSE No. 1 | 67. Wallaby Enclosure |
| 5. Aviaries | 37. Chimpanzee Islands | 68. Island |
| 6. Milk Bar | 38. Floribunda Rose Gardens | 69. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE |
| 7. CORONATION HALL | 39. Zebra House | 70. Islands |
| 8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS, FIRST AID AND LOST CHILDREN | 40. | 71. Waterbus Halt |
| 9. CAFETERIA | 41. Gibbon Island | 72. Flower Gardens |
| 10. CAFETERIA | 42. H.T. Rose Garden | 73. ROSE GARDENS |
| 11. Picnic Lawn | 43. Parrot House | 74. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 12. Bears | 44. Waterfowl Enclosure | 75. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 13. Animal Enclosure | 45. Pelicans | 76. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 13a. Kiosk | 46. Flamingos | 77. Waterbus Halt |
| 14. NORTH ENTRANCE | 47. Waterfowl Enclosure | 78. Zebra and Deer Enclosure |
| 15. AQUARIUM | 47a. Penguins and Otters | 79. Kamchatka Bears |
| 16. Push Chairs and Wheel Chairs | 48. Sea Lion Pool | 80. Elephant Paddock |
| 17.† Parrot House | 49. Rock Garden | 81. Hippo Paddock |
| 18. APE HOUSE No. 2 | 50. Polar Bears | 82. PACHYDERM HOUSE |
| 19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP | 51. Tigers | 83. Tapir Enclosure |
| 20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn | 52. Anteaters | 84. Small Mammal House |
| 21. TOILETS | 52a. Penguin Pool | 85. Waterfowl Enclosure |
| 21a. Tuatara House | 53. BIRD HOUSE | 86. Antelope and Cattle |
| 22. Peccaries | 54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT | 87. Stork Enclosures |
| 23. Waterbus Halt | 55. TOILETS | 88. Monkey Enclosures |
| 24. Birds of Prey Aviary | 56. Lions | 89. Cat House |
| 25. Birds of Prey Aviary | 57. NEW ZOO SHOP | 89a. Jaguars |
| 26. Owls | 58. TOILETS | 90. MONKEY HOUSE |
| 27. Jackal and Hyaena Enclosures | 59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT | 91. Cranes and Waterfowl |
| 28. Wolverines | 60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk | 91a. Highland Cattle |
| 29. Porcupines and Raccoons | 61. Animal Enclosure | |
| 30. Coypus | 62. Animal Enclosure | |
| 31. Beavers | 63. Cheetahs | |
| 32. Giraffe House | | |



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|-----------------------------|
| 92. Waterfowl and Wallabies |
| 92a. Llamas and Alpacas |
| 93. Cranes and Waterfowl |
| 93a. Cattle |
| 94. Bison Paddock |
| 95. Deer Paddock |
| 96. Eland and Marmots |
| 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.

The wives of the delegates were not forgotten, for whilst their husbands were attending discussions, the ladies joined by Miss G. M. Russell-Allen, were taken on a tour of Chester, which included a visit to the "Gateway" Theatre and luncheon at the Courtyard Restaurant. A most interesting tour of Ness Botanical Gardens was also provided after which the ladies were invited to join their husbands in visits to the Laboratory and Breeding Station at Chester Zoo.

The Conference reached its climax on the evening of Friday, 16th May, when delegates, wives, members of the North of England Zoological Society Council and senior members of Chester Zoo staff were invited to a Buffet Supper which was held at the Oakfield Restaurant. This was a most successful ending to the Conference. The evening was spent with the delegates chatting informally to members of the Council, before leaving friends and colleagues whom they may not meet again until the 21st Annual Conference of Zoo Directors, which is to be held next year in Edinburgh.

NEWS FROM VARIOUS SECTIONS

On entering the Tropical House, visitors are often surprised to hear deep booming sounds. At first one would imagine these noises to be made by the Gorillas but it is in fact the Alligators who give voice to this unusual sound. They usually begin when the sun shines onto their pool — the males calling in deep bass notes and being answered by the higher pitched females who inhabit the adjoining pool.

An unusual attachment has been formed between two of the birds in the Tropical House. A Yellow-winged Sugarbird can often be seen flying with a Zosterop which has only one eye. Due to their small size, both birds are able to squeeze through the wire mesh of one of the aviaries and choose the perches which seem to them most desirable.

Occasionally, especially during the winter, various waterfowl join the species already in the collection. A drake Tufted Duck has formed a friendship with the lone Duck on the pool in front of the Monkey House and it is hoped that they will breed eventually.

The Puma and Leopard cubs are proving to be fascinating exhibits and on most sunny days the cubs can be seen playing in their outside pens. The Leopardess often picks up her cubs by the scruff of the neck and carries them in exactly the same manner as a domestic cat; although this may look uncomfortable, it is evident that the mother is taking the greatest care not to injure her offspring.

It is a fairly common occurrence for the male members of the Cat family to attack or kill their young and for this reason it has been necessary to separate the male Jaguar from the female and her three cubs. Now however the male has a new enclosure so that it is no longer necessary to lock him inside when the female and her cubs are allowed out of doors.

Nobby, the 7 year old bull Indian Elephant has lost his first tooth. Elephants' teeth are rather large, very often weighing several pounds. The Elephant has a peculiar dental structure having no canines and only two incisors which are elongated to form the tusks. The teeth which are used to masticate the enormous quantities of food are molars and the grinding surface of these can measure 1 foot by 3 inches in large fully grown animals. These teeth, which are found in both upper and lower jaws develop in such a way that only the front ones are in use; when these wear they drop out and are replaced by the next tooth which has already grown into position. If an Elephant survives to an old age it will usually die of starvation as the time comes when the teeth wear away and no more grow.

Experience has proved that when an animal in the Zoo is about to give birth, it is far better to leave it completely undisturbed and to call the Veterinary Surgeon only if there are any compli-

cations. This policy sometimes causes visitors to feel a concern for the animals which is completely misguided. Recently a visitor witnessed one of the Llamas giving birth and was most disturbed to find that the animal had not been separated and confined into indoor quarters; this anxiety was unnecessary as keepers are always in the vicinity ready to obtain Veterinary aid if it is needed.

The two Chimpanzees, Bobo and Chi-Chi have settled down very well in their new accommodation at the Chimpanzee House and are now allowed outside without the supervision of their keeper. Bobo, had rather a fright when he grabbed the electric wire which is a precaution against their escape. Naturally he received only a very slight shock and after shaking his hand forgot about the incident but nevertheless seems to have been wary of the wire ever since.

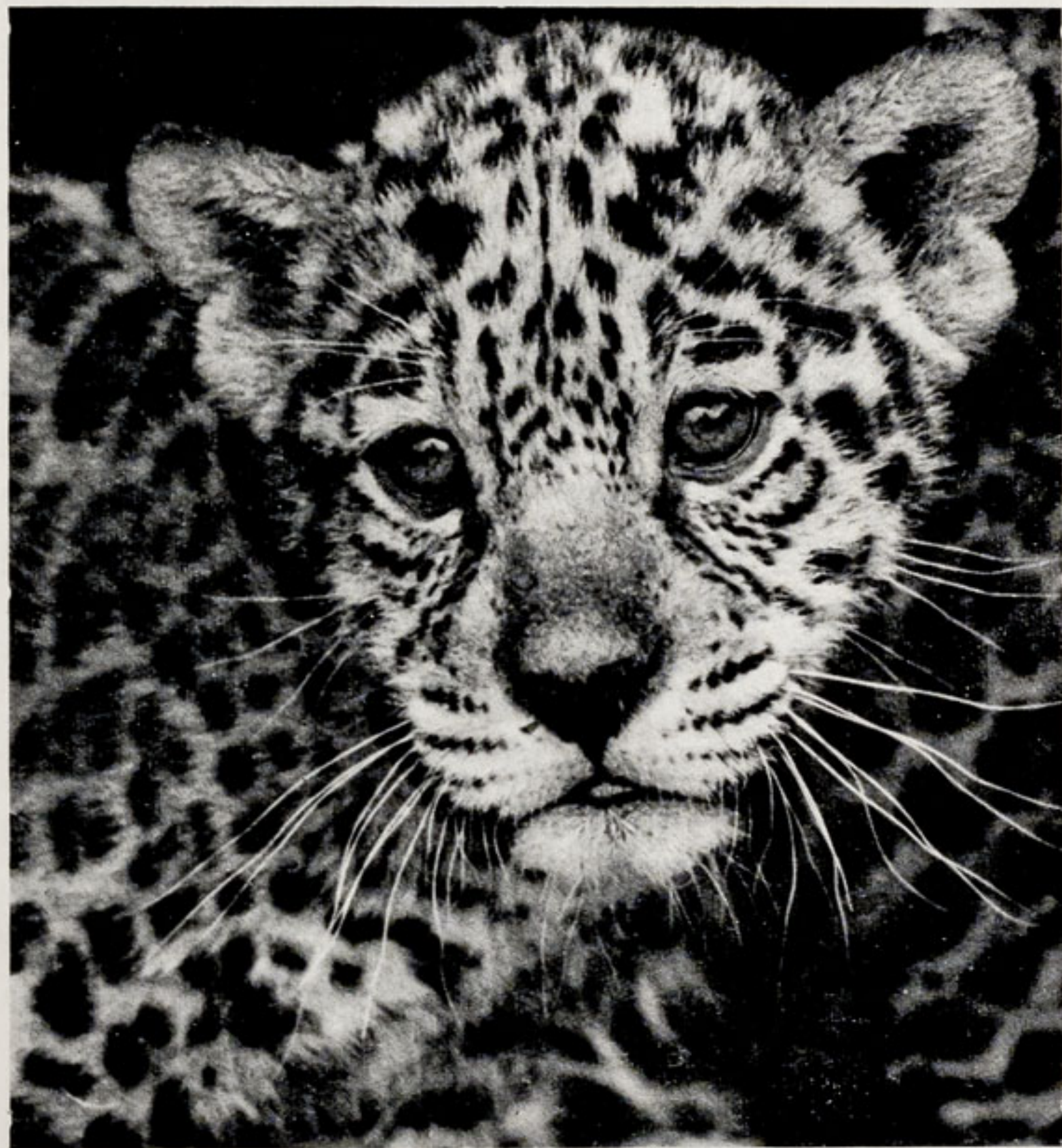
Dennis, David and Barry, the orang-utans now share accommodation with Martha in the new Ape House and this completes the transfer of all the Orang-utans from the Monkey House.

Work is progressing rapidly on the New Parrot House and flight aviary at the rear of the New Ape House. This building will be a vast improvement on the existing Parrot House, which is over crowded.

BIRD NOTES

During the past month a number of interesting arrivals have been received in the Bird Section.

Two Species of Woodpecker have been housed in aviaries at the Tropical House and both have settled well in this accommodation.



JAGUAR CUB

Mel Grundy, Deva Press Agency.

A new female Wreathed Hornbill has been housed in an aviary at the Temperate Bird House, next to the one occupied by the original male, which arrived during 1966. It is hoped eventually to house the two birds together but for the time being they will become accustomed to each other through the wire mesh. The male Hornbill tends to be rather aggressive towards both his keeper and the other Hornbills, so the introduction may take a considerable time.

Two species of Toucans, the Toco and the Sulphur-breasted have arrived as mates for the single birds of these species. The Toco is the largest of all the Toucans and has an enormous yellow and black beak, whereas the Sulphur-breasted is somewhat smaller but more colourful, with a green, orange and red beak, and a large patch of yellow on the breast and throat. All the 41 species of Toucans are found in Tropical America — the Toco in the Guianas and Brazil and the Sulphur-breasted from Mexico to Venezuela.

Also among the latest arrivals was a female Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot. These attractive birds are found in the Malay Peninsular, Borneo and Sumatra. They are a little larger than a sparrow but are brightly coloured, especially the males which are bright green with blue crown, a red rump and red throat patch. The females are duller in colour with only a little blue on the crown and no red on the throat.

The birds are almost a month late in nesting this year due to the very cold spring weather which we have had in the area. Now, however several species of birds have young which have left the nest and a large number have eggs or young in the nest boxes.

The Great Eagle Owls have again hatched youngsters and these down-covered chicks can be seen at the back of the aviary

behind a large log. A Ring-necked Parrakeet chick has left the nest and a Canada Gosling hatched recently can be seen with its parents in the large paddock opposite the Monkey House.

GARDEN NOTES

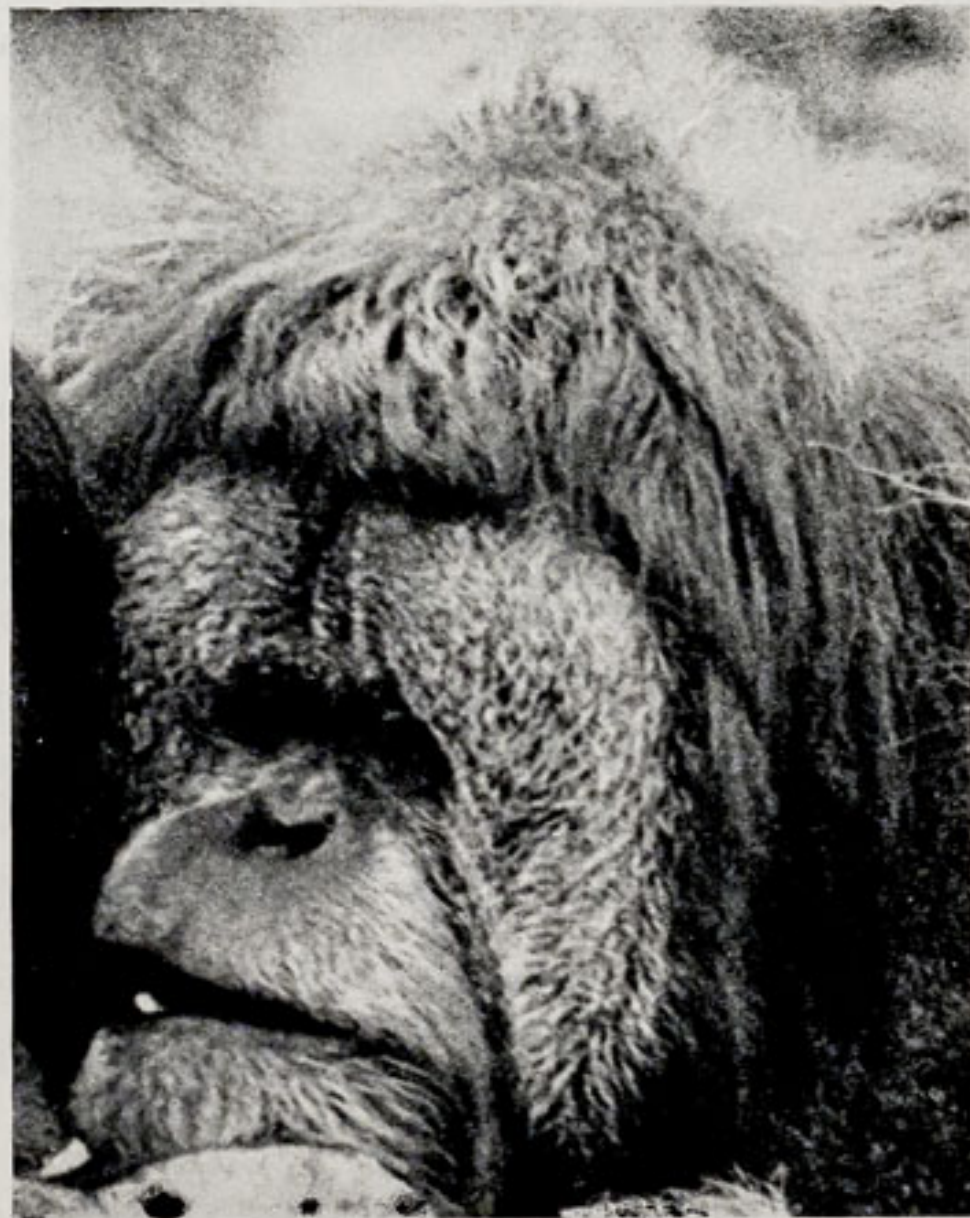
On the completion of the new Ape House the Gardening staff were able to proceed with the planting of the borders, etc.

In the back border behind the water moat is a varied collection of sub-tropical trees and shrubs including Hibiscus in variety, Genista fragrans, Abutilon Golden Fleece, Sparmannia africana and Meuhlenbeckia complexa.

Xanthosoma has been planted all along the water's edge and this water loving plant will spread its roots and grow into the water.

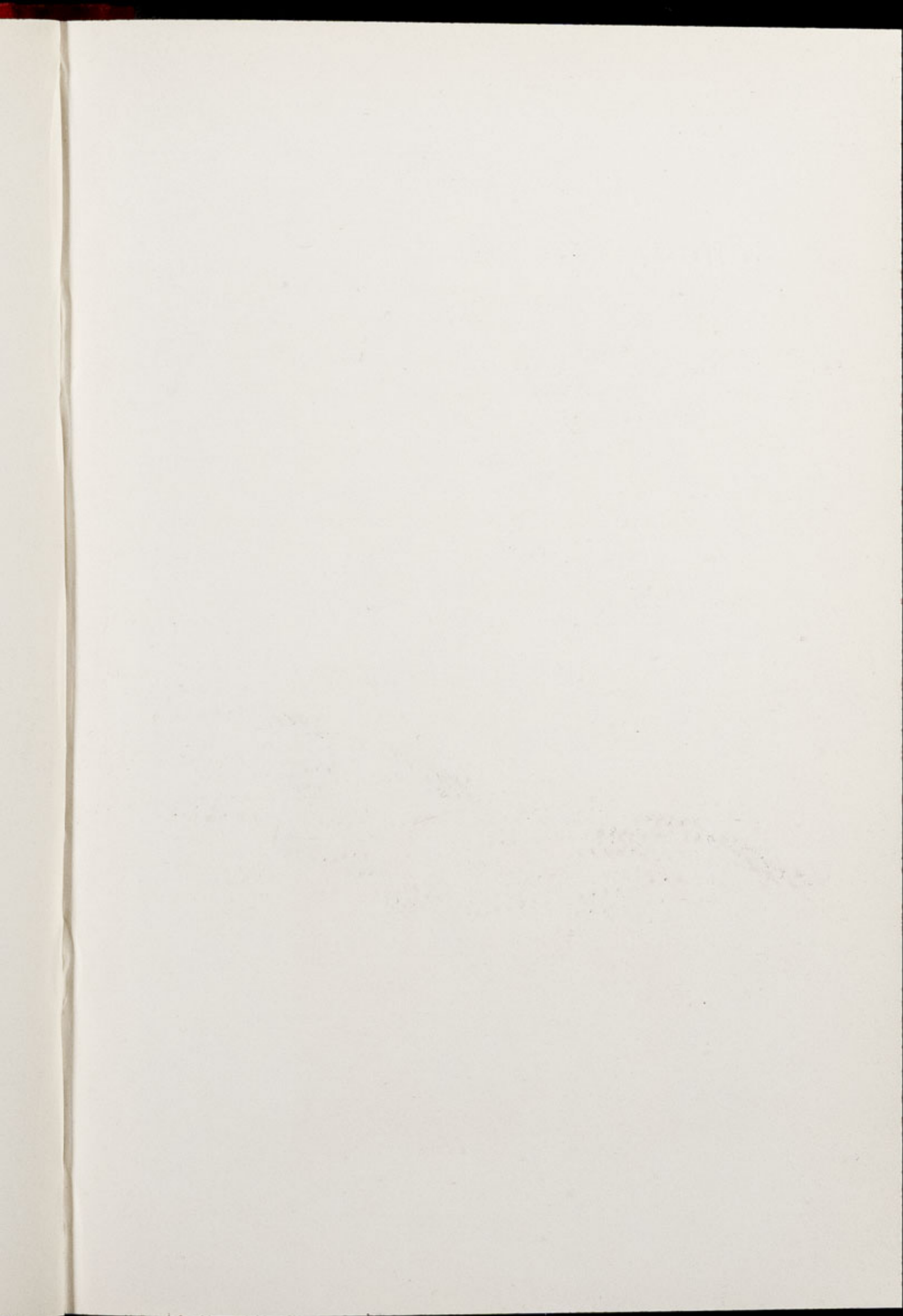
The following climbers have been planted and will be trained up the roof supporting pillars — Bougainvillea, Tibouchina semi-decandra and Plumbago capensis. Varieties of Abutilon have been planted on the walls, namely Millerii, Thompsonii, Agathea, Megapotanicum and Souvenir de Bonne with Asparagus sprengerii Fern interplanted to trail over and down the walls. A wide variety of shrubs and trees grown at the Zoo have been lifted from the nursery and replanted in the landscaped gardens laid out at the New Ape House. Hybrid Foxgloves and Sweet William have been planted between the shrubs to add colour during the first year until the shrubs fill their allotted place.

We are very sad to announce the death of Jimmy our adult male Orang-utan who died soon after being transferred to the New Ape House. On arrival at the Zoo he was five years old and lived happily for 12 years, being renowned by visitors as the Orang-utan who walked upright. Jimmy was aged seventeen when he died and was not only the oldest but the largest of the Orang-utans. Jimmy and Paul had for some years been the best of friends but for some unaccountable reason, just prior to being moved to the New Ape House they had a fight and had to be separated. Attempts were made after the transfer to help them regain their friendship and although all went well for a day, they quarrelled again and had to be separated. Jimmy however received a serious bite wound on his hand during the fight. This defeat depressed him greatly, he refused to eat and died some days later.



ORANG-UTAN, 'JIMMY'

J. E. Rackham



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