



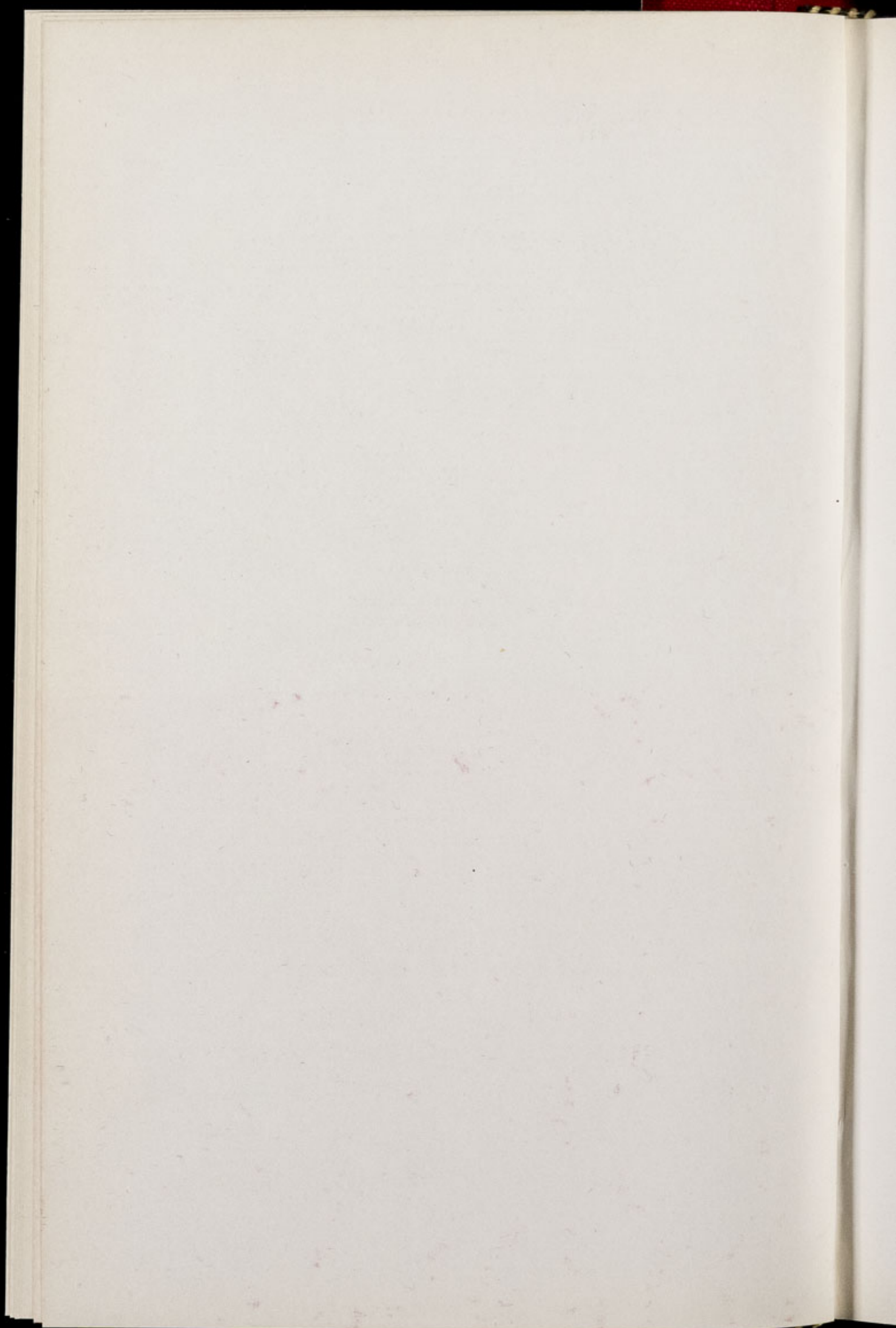
# **Chester Zoo News**

## ***AND GUIDE***

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

**April 1980**

**Price 15p**



# The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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## COVER PICTURE

Lion

*By courtesy of John A. Davidson*

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### RE-DESIGNING OF FLAMINGO POOL

Many readers will have noticed the work in progress on the Flamingo Enclosure (Guide No. 43) opposite the Parrot House. We are pleased to report that this is now largely complete.

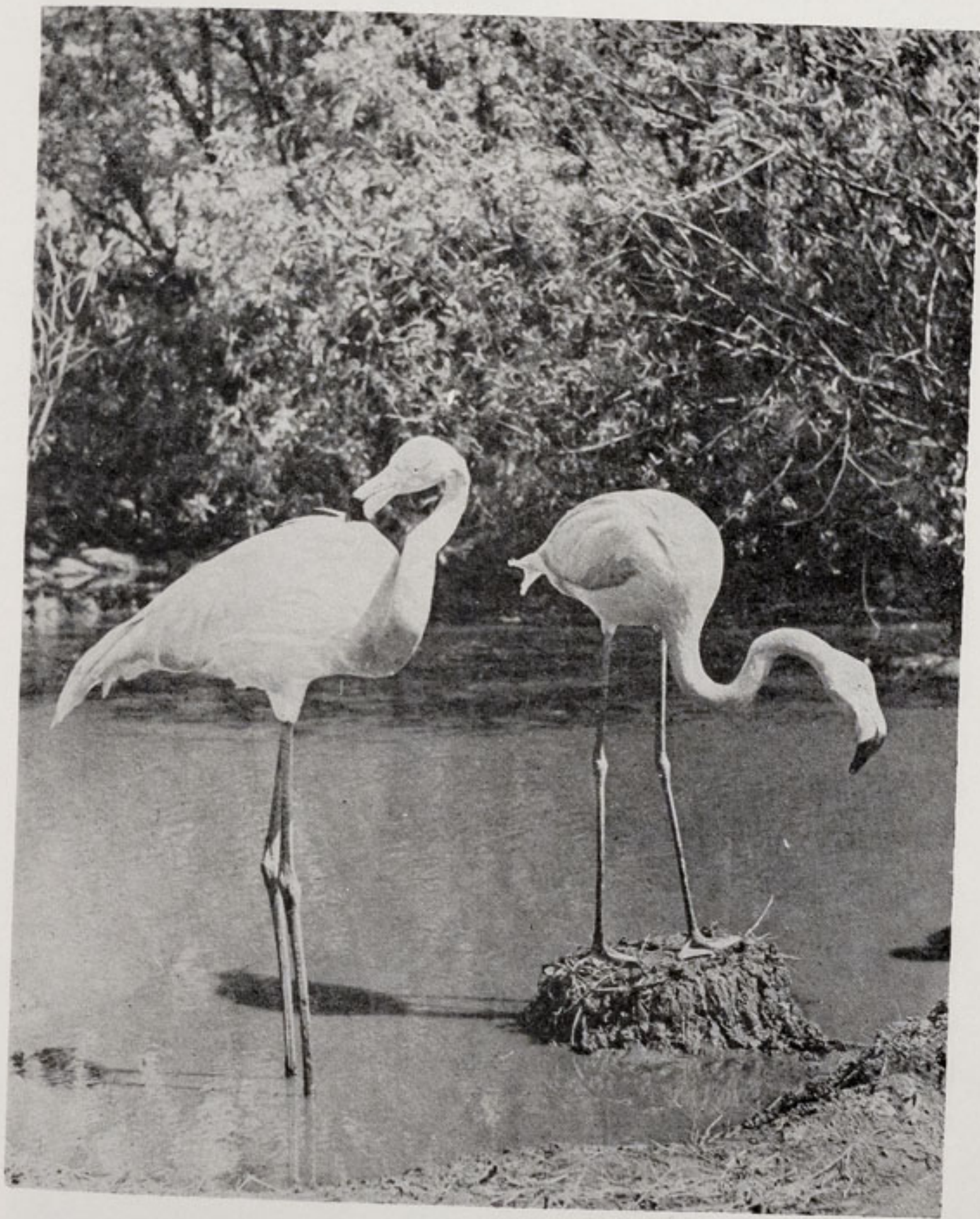
The objective has been to create more open shallow water in the hope that we will, for the first time since acquiring Flamingoes in 1957, get this attractive bird to breed. In 1957 the Zoo obtained Greater Flamingoes (*Phoenicopterus ruber roseus*) and the remaining five of that species are from that original acquisition. Subsequent to that date, the Zoo acquired representatives of the remaining five species, namely:—

- James' Flamingo (*Phoenicoparrus jamesi*);
- Andean Flamingo (*Phoenicoparrus andinus*);
- Rosy Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus r. ruber*);
- Chilean Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus r. chilensis*);
- Lesser Flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*).

However, we decided in 1979 to send them to the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge, because we had only one of each of the three species of Andean, James' and Lesser Flamingoes. This left us with five Greater, eleven Rosy and nineteen Chilean Flamingoes. Of these eight Rosy and one Greater are now in the new Enclosure. The remainder are still in Enclosure No. 87 near the Monkey House.

We plan to base our Flamingoes on only two species—the Rosy and the Chilean. Flamingoes appear to breed more successfully in flocks of twenty or more. The Greater Flamingoes will join a flock at another Zoo.

The re-designed enclosure has one large island surrounded by a



*By courtesy of J. Whitworth*  
GREATER FLAMINGOES NEST BUILDING

shelf of shallow water, with areas of deeper water nearer to the edge. The Flamingoes need the deep water in order to mate, for the male cannot mount the female in shallow water.

The shallow water is needed for the mounds which the Flamingoes build to support their nests. These mounds are about a foot in diameter and about a foot high. It is important that they are surrounded by water and also that they do not get swamped, so the water level must be kept constant during the breeding season and an overflow has been built-in to prevent over-filling.

The area will have to be protected from foxes, which would disturb the birds and prevent them from breeding.

To persuade Flamingoes to breed in Zoos, it is also necessary to feed a diet which provides enough nutrients in a form the birds can take in and absorb. Flamingoes feed by turning their heads upside down and filtering the food from the water. The diet we use is a modified commercial trout farming diet. If the birds are to stimulate each other into breeding condition, they must not only be in a suitable environment, be well fed and in good condition, but they must also have a strong pinkish red colour.

It will probably take a year or two for the enclosure to mature and the birds to settle into it, but by then we hope to see fluffy chicks peeping out from under their parents perched incongruously on their nest mounds.

### GARDENING NOTES

The mild Winter continued into Spring, but February and March have been very wet months. This wet weather has hindered the Gardeners in the construction of a new garden on the site of the old Bear Pits, Zoo Guide No. 11.



*By courtesy of George Green, Evening Leader*  
RING-TAILED LEMUR AND YOUNGSTER

This new garden is to be called the South American Garden. On the site, the map of South America has been outlined with an edging of stone and a surrounding path. Many loads of soil were needed to fill in the pits and bring the area up to level above the road. A ridge to represent the Andes Mountains extends down the west side.

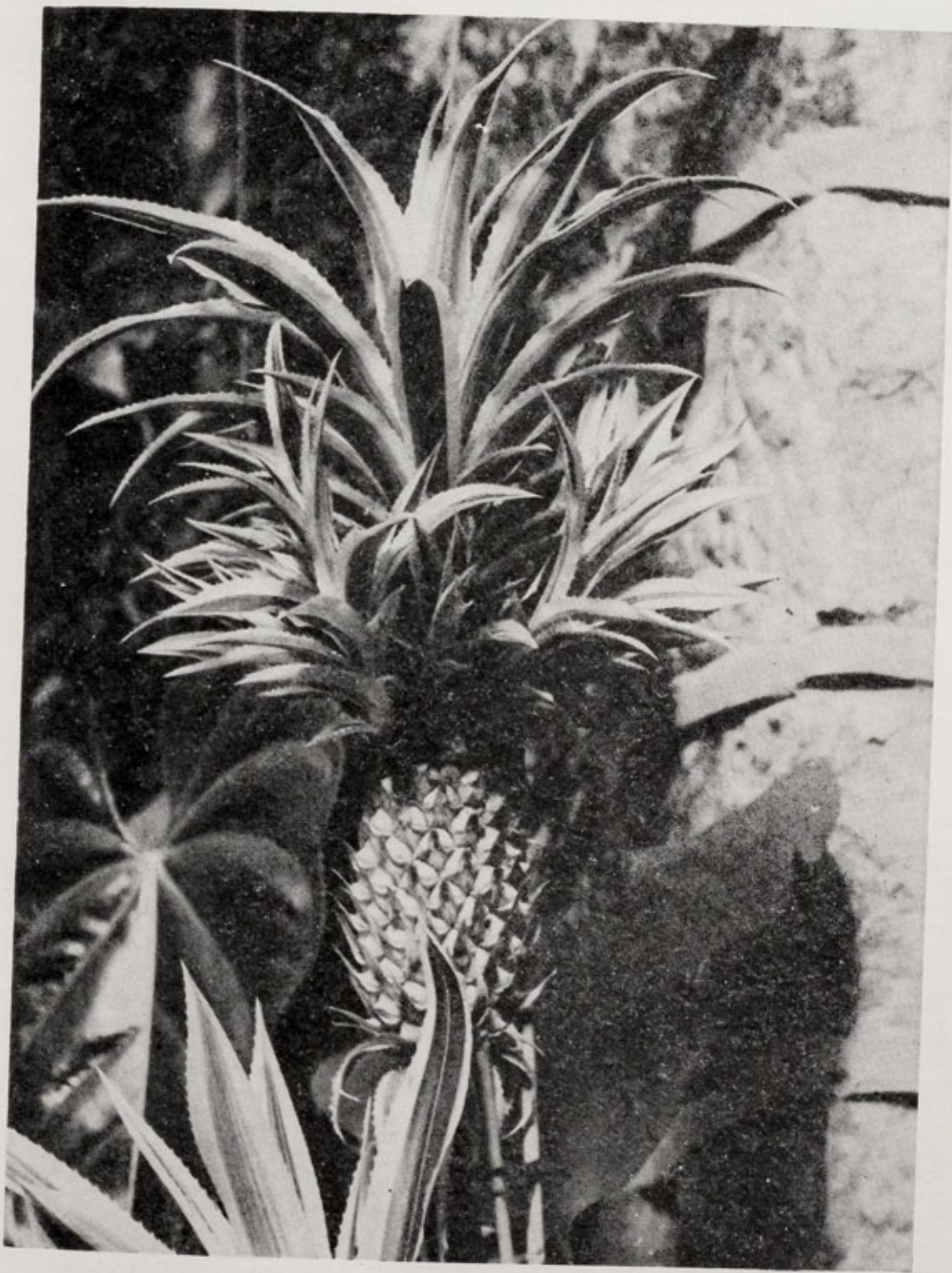
The size of the Garden is 100 feet from north to south and 60 feet from east to west at its widest point. The basic idea is to grow plants, trees and shrubs that were originally discovered in South America. Although we shall not be able to grow the tropical plants of the northern parts where the Equator crosses, there are some we hope to plant out for the Summer months. Many of the plants which we shall be able to plant out permanently come from Chile.

Some groups of half-hardy annuals will be planted such as the Flowering Tobacco *Nicotiana affinis*, which has the common name of Night-scented Tobacco, and also the Tobacco plant grown for smokers. This Garden will interest our botanical visitors and all the plants will be labelled.

We will also be growing some of the food plants which come from South America, among them one of our main starch foods, the Potato, *Solanum tuberosum*; also the Scarlet Runner Bean, *Phaseolus coccineus*; *Zea mays*, common name Maize or Indian Corn, and the Tomato, *Lycopersicon esculentum*.

There are many more food plants which originate from South America and are now grown throughout the world. Among these are the Pineapple, Cocoa, Peanut, Cassava—the roots of which give us Tapioca—and Passion Fruit from *Passiflora edulis*.

Two Monkey Puzzle Trees, *Araucaria imbricata*, are planted but, unfortunately, our specimens are still very small and it will be a few years before they begin to look like the familiar Monkey Puzzle.



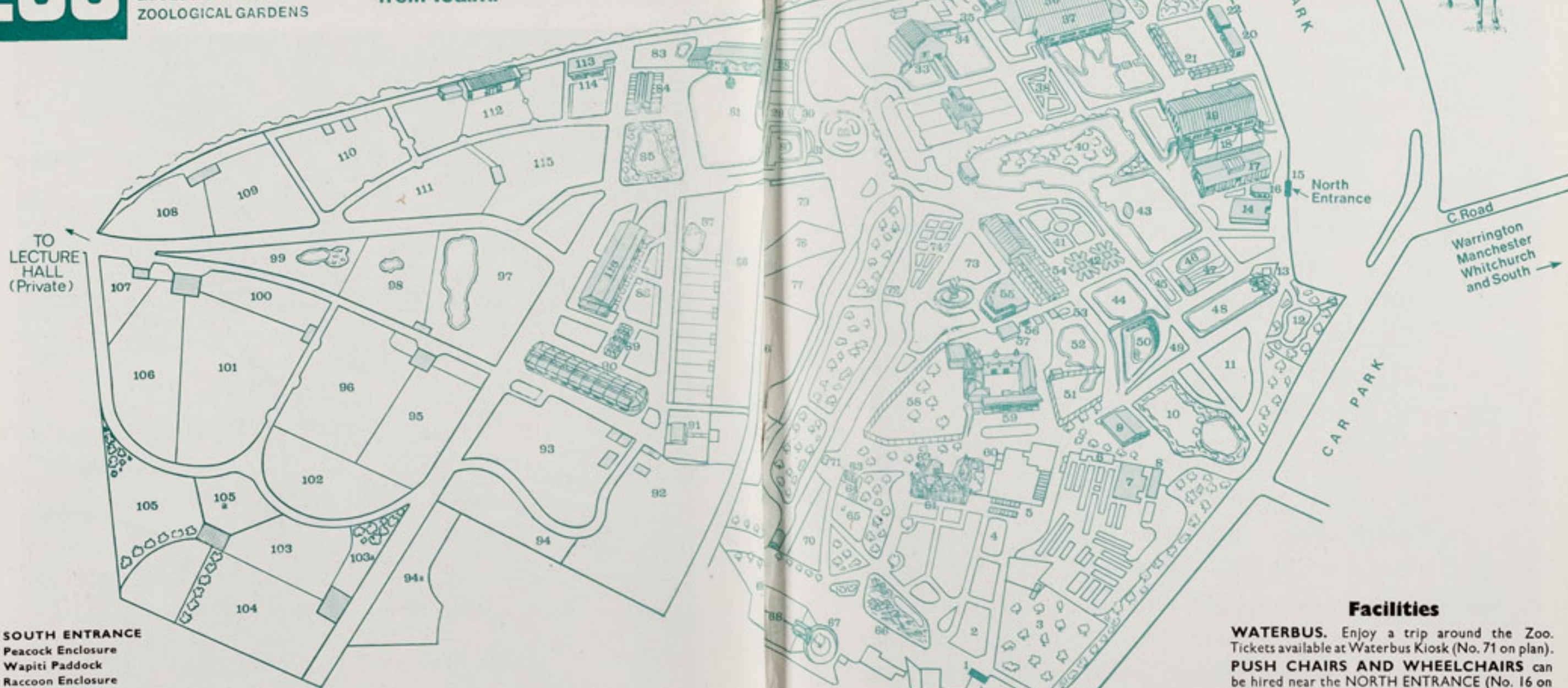
*By courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.*  
PINEAPPLE IN TROPICAL HOUSE

# CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND  
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

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

**Chester Zoo is Open Daily  
from 10a.m.**



## 1. SOUTH ENTRANCE

2. Peacock Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Raccoon 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. Ornamental Garden (under construction)
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. CLASSROOM
23. TOILETS
24. TUATARA EXHIBIT
25. Peccaries
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. Giant Tortoise Paddock
36. TROPICAL AND REPTILE HOUSES
37. CHIMPANZEES
38. Floribunda Rose Garden
39. Zebra House
40. Waterfowl Island
41. H.T. Rose Garden
42. Aviaries
43. Flamingos
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Waterfowl Enclosure
46. Tapir Enclosure
47. Sealions
48. Rock Garden
49. Polar Bears
50. Big Cat Enclosure
51. Waterfowl Enclosure
52. Capybara
53. BIRD HOUSE
54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT
56. Ape Nursery
57. TOILETS
58. Lions
59. SOUVENIR SHOP
60. TOILETS
61. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT & G. S. Mottershead Memorial Gds

62. P.O. Telephone
63. Gibbons
64. Arctic Fox Enclosure
65. Serval Enclosure
66. Ornamental Rock Garden
67. Wallabies and Kangaroos
68. Kangaroo Enclosure
69. Animal Paddock
70. Cheetahs
71. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE AND KIOSK
72. Rose Gardens
73. Fountain Flower Gardens
74. Rose Garden
75. Red Lechwe
76. Red Lechwe
77. Deer or Antelope Enclosure
78. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
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 Enclosure
93. Antelope Enclosure
94. Reindeer Enclosure
- 94a. Llamas
95. Antelope Enclosure
96. Antelope Enclosure
97. Waterfowl Enclosure
98. Waterfowl Enclosure
99. Waterfowl Enclosure
100. Blackback
101. Wallabies
102. Ostrich
103. Wallabies
- 103a. Animal Enclosure

104. Pere David's Deer Paddock
105. Przewalski's Horses
- 105a. Onager
106. Arabian Gazelles
107. Guanaco
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

## Facilities

**WATERBUS.** Enjoy a trip around the Zoo. Tickets available at Waterbus Kiosk (No. 71 on plan).

**PUSH CHAIRS AND WHEELCHAIRS** can be hired near the NORTH ENTRANCE (No. 16 on plan).

**LOST CHILDREN** are taken to building No. 16 on plan.

**FIRST AID** Cloakroom (No. 8 on plan).

**TOILETS.** Invalids' Toilets (No. 8 on plan).

## Catering

OAKFIELD RESTAURANT (Table Licence)—No. 61 on plan.

FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT (Unlicensed)—No. 55 on plan.

CORONATION HALL (for Party Catering)—No. 7 on plan.

CAFETERIA (Self Service)—No. 9 on plan.

MPILA SNACK BAR (Light Meals)—No. 114 on plan.

RAINBOW KIOSK (Picnic Lawn adjoining)—No. 20 on plan.

Undercover facilities for visitors wishing to eat their own food are provided either at the CORONATION HALL No. 7 or the adjoining Snack Bar.

Snack Bars and Picnic Lawns are situated throughout the ZOO

## Feeding Times

LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

SEA LIONS—3 times daily—2.30 p.m.—3.30 p.m.—4.30 p.m.

ANIMALS MAY BE MOVED FROM TIME TO TIME

*Araucaria* is the name of the Indian tribe of the province of Araneo, Chile. *Imbricata* refers to the leaves overlapping and the leaves can be active for ten years or more. The Monkey Puzzle tree belongs to the coniferous group. Also we have planted two trees of the South American Beech, *Nothofagus*. These two trees grow in the southern part of Chile and Argentina.

*Gynerium argenteum*, common name Pampas Grass, is planted along the ridge. This plant grows in the semi-desert regions and the narrow leaves are tough and strong and cut your fingers if you rub them along the edges. The flowers are feathery on long stems. The name *Gynerium* comes from the Greek Gyne for female, referring to the ovary, and Erion for wool—the stigmas of the plant being covered in wool. *Argenteum* means silvery.

*Escallonia*, a well-known evergreen shrub, is also planted on the ridge and this flowers in the Summer. The colours are various shades of pink or white. *Escallonia* is named after Signor Escallon, a Spanish traveller. Many plants and seeds were brought from South America by Spanish explorers from the 15th Century onwards. The explorers were accompanied by Spanish priests who named one of the plants *Passiflora* because they regarded the flower parts as a symbol of the Crucifixion. The name *Passiflora* comes from the Latin Passus, which means suffering, and Flos, flower. The priests interpreted the flower in the following manner:—

The five stamens were the five wounds;  
the three stigmas were the three nails;  
the style of the pistil, the flogging column;  
the corona was the Crown of Thorns or halo of glory;  
the fingered leaves, the hands of the multitude;  
the coiled tendrils, the flogging cords;  
and the five sepals and the five petals were the ten disciples  
(Peter and Judas omitted in the count).



*By courtesy of Mel Grundy Photographic Agency*  
MALE CHINESE WATER DEER

### CHINESE WATER DEER

Recently received into the Collection were three Chinese Water Deer (*Hydropotes inermis*). These have been housed in Enclosure 92 together with one specimen which we already had.

Many people expect to see antlers on the many different species of Deer but a small number do not carry them at all. Instead, the males have tusks, which are elongated upper canine teeth. The tusks, which may reach  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches in some animals, can be seen in the picture of a Chinese Water Deer Male on page ten.

These Deer are small, the males measuring about 20 inches at the shoulder and weighing 25 to 30 lbs. The females are an inch or two smaller and lighter in weight, and do not carry the tusks.

The diet consists mostly of wet land plants which are abundant in this animal's natural habitat, the marshes and reed beds of large rivers. This deer is sometimes called the Yangtze River Deer, on account of its principal habitat along the lower reaches of that river, but it also occurs along other rivers in South-East China.

The coarse coat is yellowish brown with white underparts. The tail is very short and the feet are broad—a feature which helps the deer to gain a good foothold in the slippery marshes and river banks. The youngsters are spotted with white against a dull brown coat. The fawns are born in "litters" and very often three or more are born at one time. These are concealed by the female in separate hiding places. She then returns to feed them in turn.

### MEMBERS' NEWS

A Members' Meeting of the North of England Zoological

Society was held on Saturday, 22nd March. The Speaker, Dr. R. Palmer, Ph.D., B.Sc., gave a talk entitled "*Wildlife in Wirral*".

The wide range of slides with which Dr. Palmer illustrated his talk emphasised the wide range of species and the many different habitats which occur in the area. The close-ups of butterflies such as Painted Ladies, Peacocks, Orange-tipped Whites and the rarely-seen Monarch gave the less successful of our entomologists an opportunity to study detailed pictures of their quarry!

The remainder of the Members' programme for this year is as follows:—

31st May, 1980—3.30 p.m.

Annual General Meeting of the North of England  
Zoological Society.

As mentioned in last month's magazine, we are organising a trip for our Junior Members to Hilbre Island on 17th May, and details are being sent out.

Readers interested in Membership of the Society can obtain details and application forms from the Membership Office. Junior Membership is open to youngsters aged from twelve to eighteen.

### REQUEST

If any of our local readers have a garden pond in which they find an excessive amount of frog spawn, would they let us try to restock some of our own ponds and waterways? But please, we do not want any from public ponds or streams, and please leave plenty in your own pond too. Many thanks to our local readers who have already assisted us with this request.

## ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

Guide No.

## MAMMALS

4	Ring-tailed Lemurs ( <i>Lemur catta</i> )	Births	116
2	Chinchillas ( <i>Chinchilla laniger</i> )	Births	39
3	Chinese Water Deer ( <i>Hydropotes inermis</i> )	Received	92
1	Striped Skunk ( <i>Mephitis mephitis</i> )	Purchased	90
2	Spotted Skunks ( <i>Spilogale putorius</i> )	Purchased	84
5	Tammar Wallabies ( <i>Macropus eugenii</i> )	Purchased	67

## BIRDS

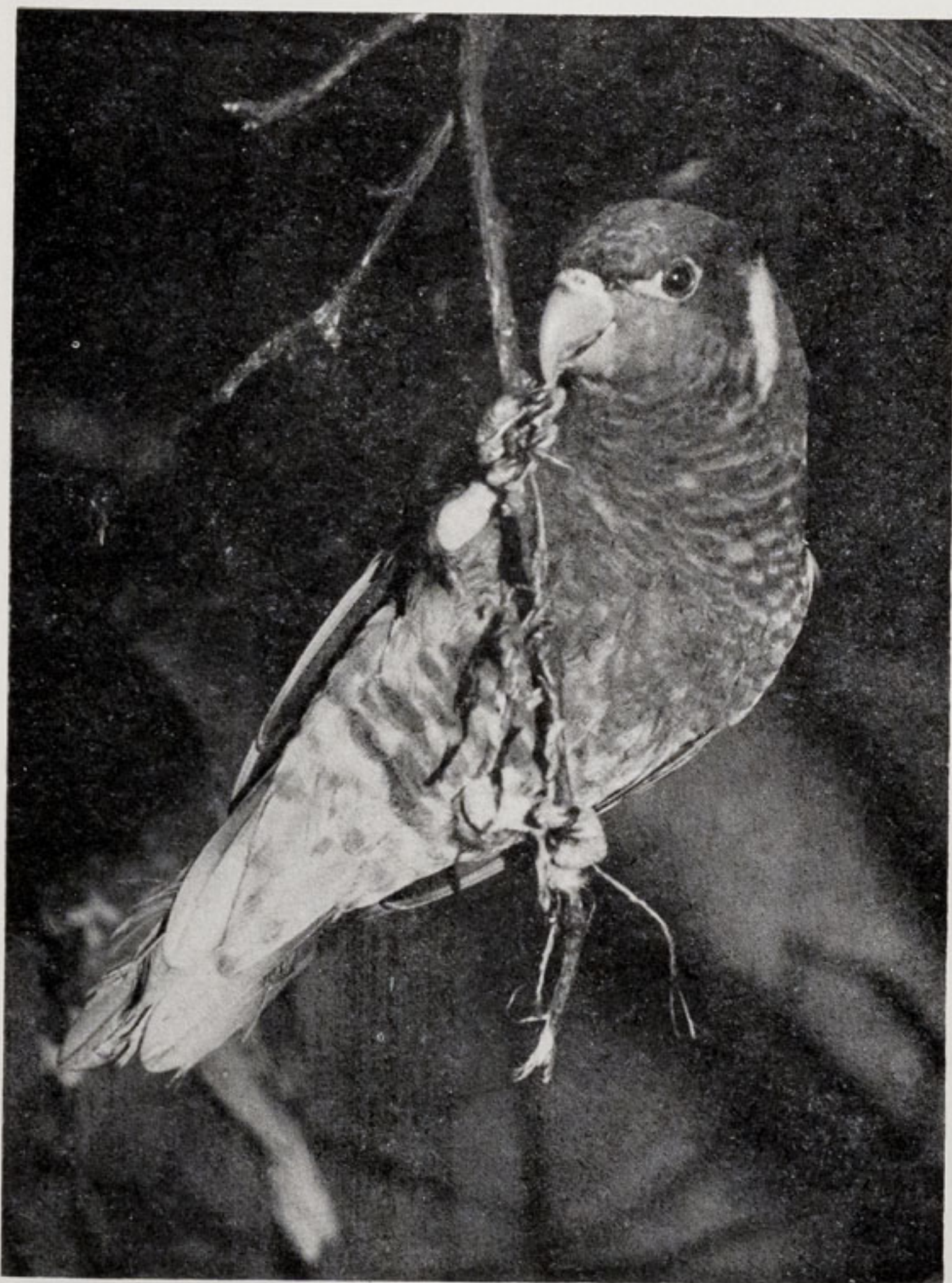
2	Indian Hill Mynah Birds ( <i>Gracula religiosa</i> )	Presented	54
1	Fischer's Lovebird ( <i>Agapornis fischeri</i> )	Received	42
1	Ornate Lorikeet ( <i>Trichoglossus ornatus</i> )	Hatched	42
2	Crested Bronzewing Pigeons ( <i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i> )	Hatched	36
4	Emerald Starlings ( <i>Lamprotornis iris</i> )	Purchased	36
4	White-crowned Robin Chats ( <i>Cossypha albicapilla</i> )	Purchased	36

## FISH

	Axolotls ( <i>Amblystoma mexicanum</i> )	Bred	Aquarium
	Texas Cichlids ( <i>Cichlasoma cyanoguttatum</i> )	Bred	Aquarium
1	Shovel-nosed Catfish	Received	Aquarium
1	Tiger Shovel-nosed Catfish	Received	Aquarium
1	Porcupine Puffer Fish ( <i>Diadon hystrix</i> )	Received	Aquarium
1	Hogfish	Received	Aquarium

The Tammar Wallabies (*Macropus eugenii*) have been in quarantine for the last six months after arriving from Australia. These Wallabies have not been exhibited at Chester before. During the time they were in quarantine a youngster was produced.

A female Bennett's Wallaby which died recently was found to be carrying a small youngster, which was subsequently taken in for



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

ORNATE LORIKEET

hand-rearing by Mr. Peter Wait, the Curator of Mammals. The youngster is now in the care of Keeper, Alan Woodward. The baby, a female, stands at about a foot high, and is receiving three feeds a day; these include milk, Abidec, chopped apple, Zoo concentrate and banana. Curator and Keeper will both be keeping an eye on how she progresses until the time comes for her to be put in with the large group of Bennett's Wallabies that we have.

The Skunks we have received are particularly attractive, with their well-defined black and white patterned coats. These are well worth a visit and may be seen in the Enclosures numbered 84 and 90.

Once again, the Aquarium has been successful in breeding Axolotls. At the time of writing, there are approximately 200 youngsters, but we are told that this may well be reduced to about 100, due to deaths and occasional cannibalism by larger youngsters.

Amongst the first hatchings this year are the Ornate Lorikeets and a picture of one of these attractive birds is included on page 15.

### VISITORS TO THE ZOO AND GARDENS

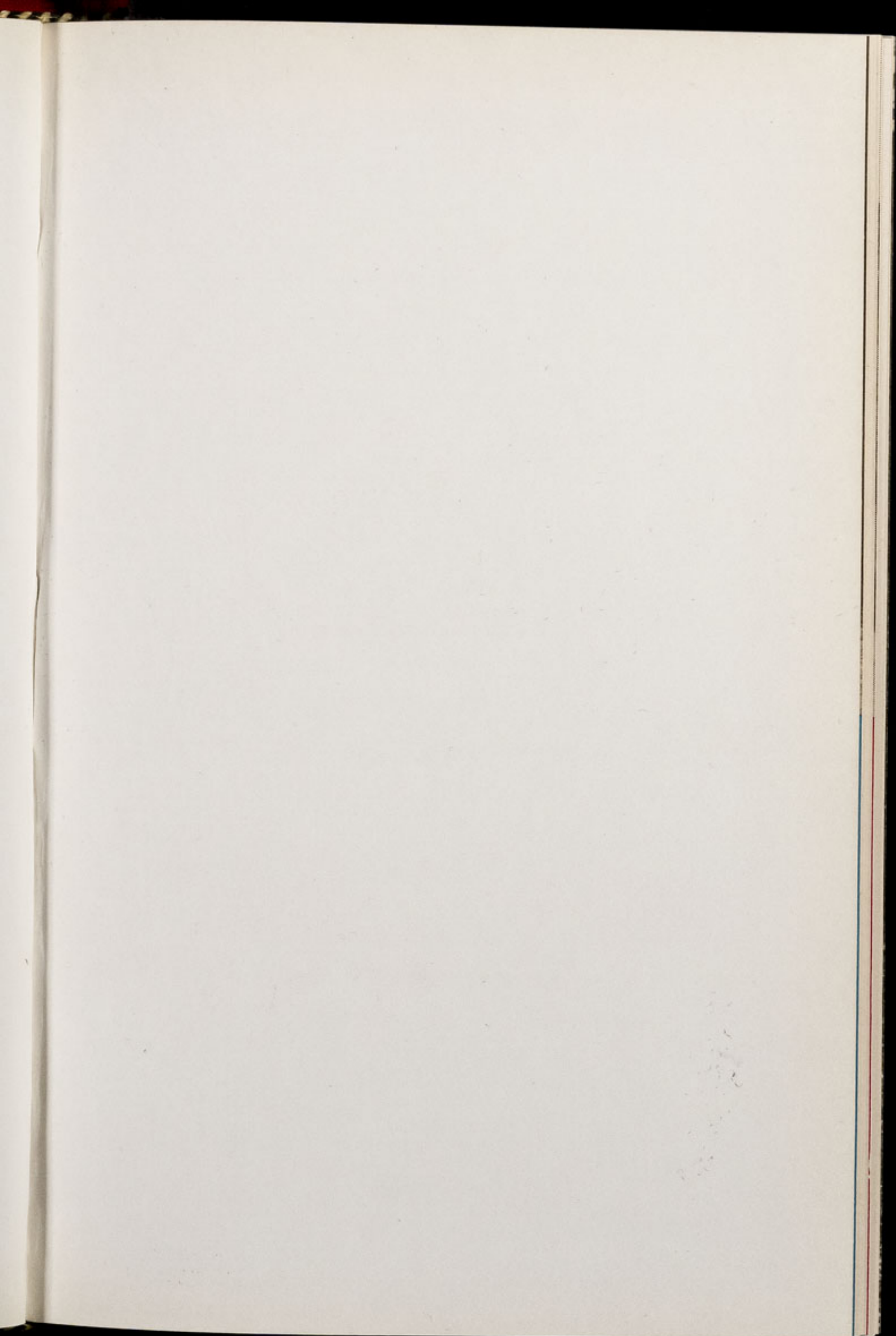
Readers may be interested to note that visitors to the Zoo and Gardens during 1978 and 1979 are as follows:—

	1978	1979
Visitors to the Gardens	935,891	880,763
Visitors to the Aquarium	213,520	220,523
Visitors to the Tropical House	274,926	312,491

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

CHESTER ZOO NEWS is at present being produced every month and readers who would like to receive the magazine regularly can obtain subscription forms at the Souvenir Shops or the Office. The current charge for 12 issues, including postage, is £3.00 per year.

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