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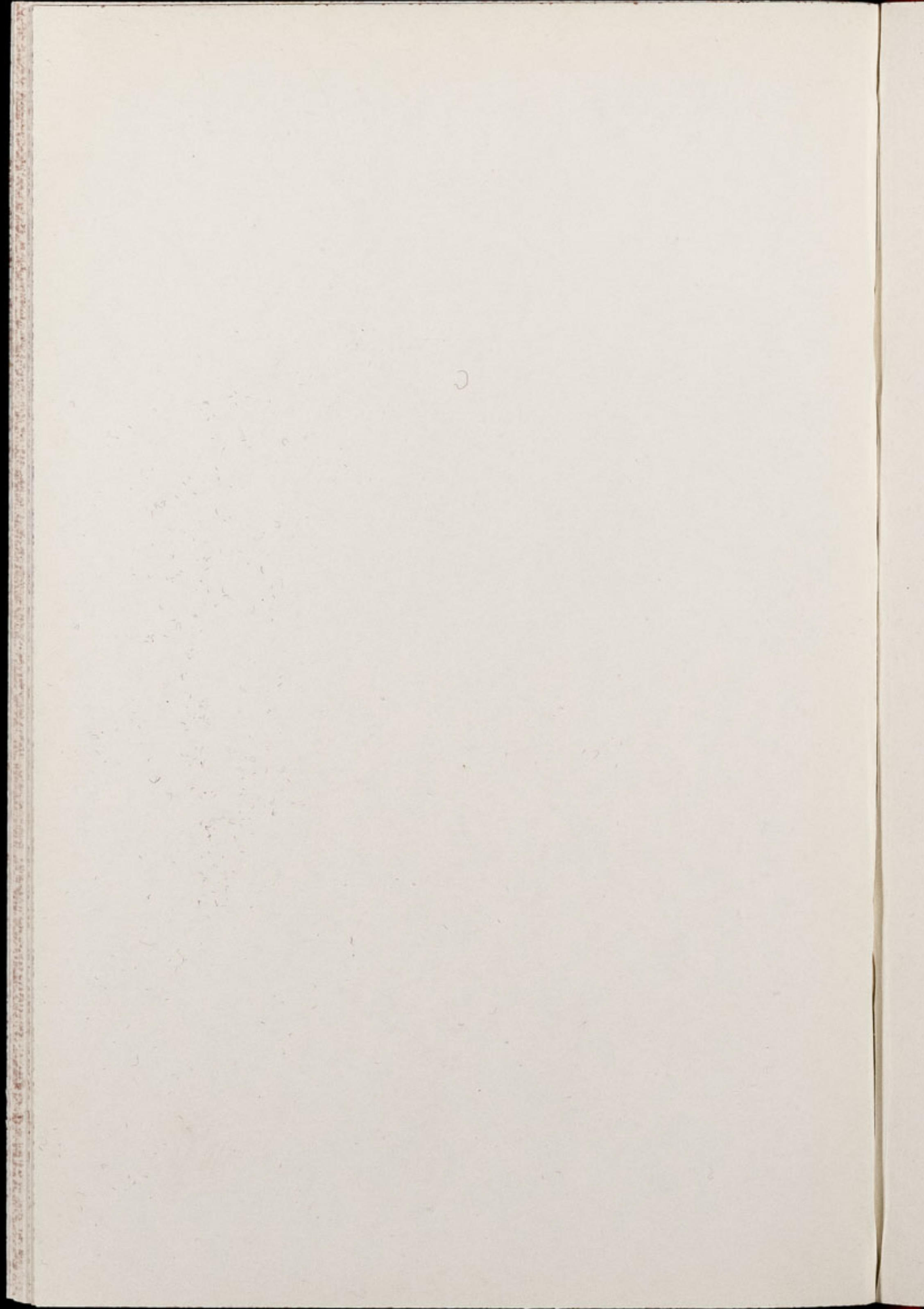
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

November 1968

Price 1/-



The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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CONTENTS:

<i>page two</i>	Arrivals and Births.
<i>page four</i>	New Buildings.
<i>page eight/nine</i>	Zoo Guide.
<i>page ten</i>	Fennec Foxes.
<i>page twelve</i>	News from Various Sections

ILLUSTRATIONS:

<i>page three</i>	Lion Cub.
<i>page five</i>	Mountain Gorilla.
<i>page eleven</i>	Fennec Fox.
<i>page thirteen</i>	Cassowary and Emu.
<i>page fifteen</i>	Beavers.

COVER: This month's cover photograph is of our Lowland Gorillas, 'Jason' and 'Gogal'.

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ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

A very attractive young pair of Chimpanzees were sent to us by Mr. Clarke of Sierra Leone, West Africa. These animals have been accommodated in the Monkey House but later will be transferred to the Ape House. The female Chimpanzee is called 'Chi-Chi' and is a little over 4 years of age; her mate 'Bobo' is almost one year younger. The two Chimps withstood the air flight very well indeed and travelled in specially made crates sent out by Chester Zoo.

Whilst on holiday in Italy, Lady Bennett saw a young male Lion in a shop. Upon making enquiries she was told that eventually this Lion cub would go to some Zoo or Circus. As she was very anxious that the cub should have a good home she arranged for it to come to Chester.

'Kim' has now arrived and is at present undergoing a period of six months quarantine which is of course compulsory for these animals when they come into this country. As our present Lionesses are now getting on in years and our adult Lion died during the summer, we hope to find some Lionesses similar in age to 'Kim' so that a new pride can be formed.

Several waterfowl have been presented to the Zoo during the last month, including a Cape Teal. These ducks are found in East and South Africa and it is the first time that this species has been exhibited at Chester Zoo. Cape Teal have pale-coloured feathering, a pretty shape and a beautiful pink-coloured beak. Our new arrival has been accommodated on our Mandarin Pond and shares this enclosure with other ornamental waterfowl, including a trio of Laysan Teal.



LION CUB 'KIM'

Jack Smith

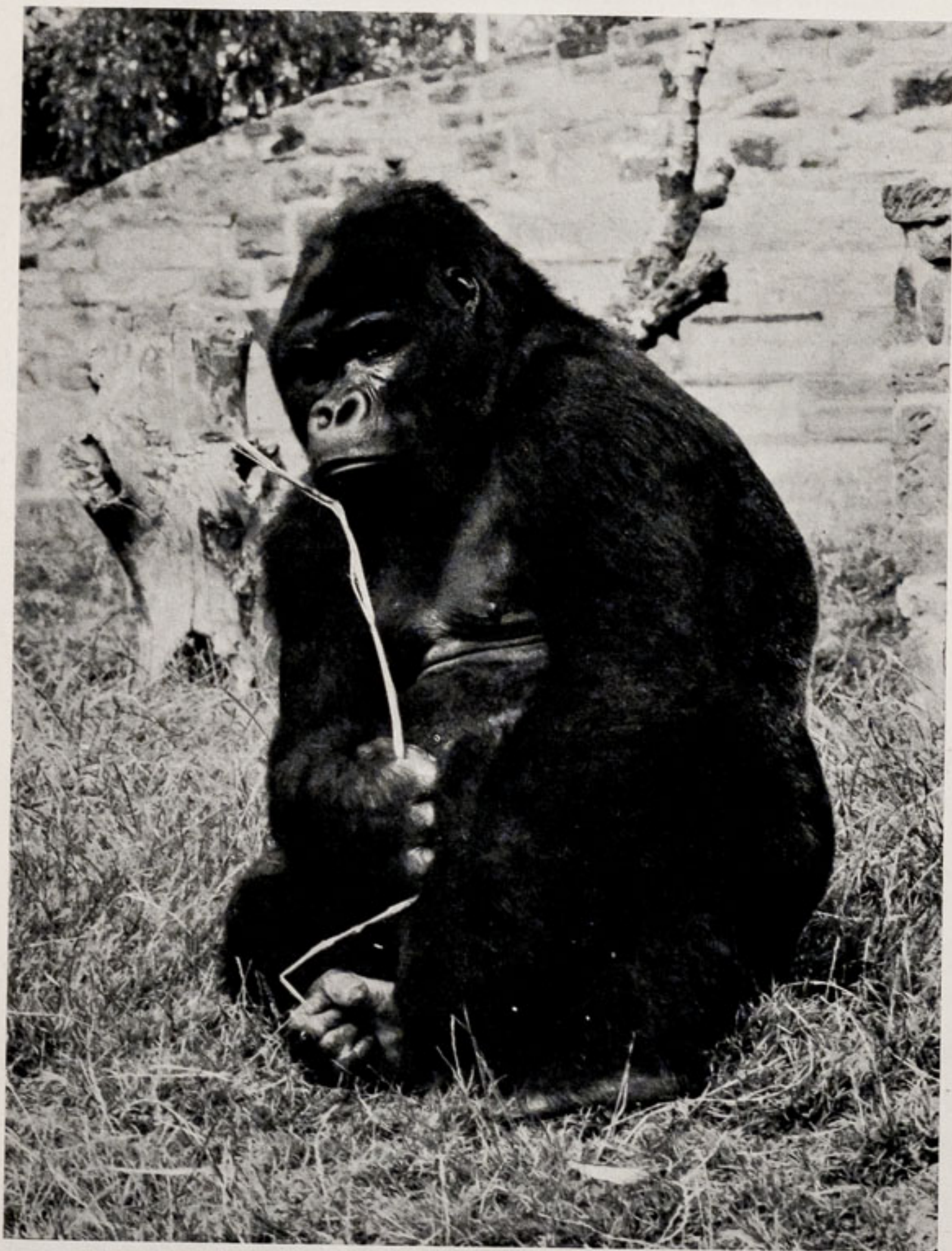
A Plum or Blossom-headed Parrakeet is a recent new arrival in the Bird Section. These birds are found in India, Ceylon, Burma and eastwards to Southern China. The male's head is red washed with blue giving the effect of a Plum but females have a dull bluish-grey head.

Arrivals in the Reptile Section include a 14 foot long Reticulated Python. This species can grow longer than any other type of snake and exceptional specimens have been measured at around 30 feet long. However, a large Reticulated Python is anything over 20 feet in length, so ours has a considerable way to go before being classed amongst the giants. Another arrival in the Reptile House is a three foot long Mississippi Alligator which brings our total of these reptiles to nine.

The latest birth in the Zoo is of an Indian Mongoose in our Mammal House. This is the first time these Mongooses have been bred at the Zoo and at the time of writing the youngster is thriving. It is rather elusive and only emerges from the breeding bed during early mornings and at dusk but will become more venturesome when older.

NEW BUILDINGS

Now that our busy season is over, work has to be undertaken to prepare for the coming year. The most outstanding project at present under way is the construction of a new Ape House. We originally termed this an Orang-Utan House, however, this building will have to accommodate not only the Orangs but also some of the Gorillas. It is an entirely new house and is not a substitute for



Mr. and Mrs. E. Sorby

"MUKISI", MALE MOUNTAIN GORILLA

what we have already built and which has been so successful but an addition so as to accommodate our ever-growing stock of the Anthropoid apes.

The first Ape House, as readers will be aware, accommodates our Chimpanzees on the south side and the Orangs and Mountain Gorillas on the west side. Our stock has now grown so large that we have to provide extra accommodation, as in addition to our Mountain Gorillas we have a fine pair of Lowland Gorillas which are at present accommodated in the Chimpanzee quarters. However, this is not suitable for their permanent residence; already we have found that this accommodation, which is quite adequate for Chimpanzees, will not be sufficient to contain the Gorillas as they grow.

Our Lowland Gorillas now 7 and 5½ years old are getting very venturesome and unlike the chimps they will wade through the water almost up to their necks and do not hesitate to lift the electric wire out of the way to enable them to cross. To prevent this the keeper is always in the enclosure with them. They are not dangerous — in fact they are extremely playful and full of life; they merely feel that they should have as much liberty as the visitors — so they will be transferred into our new Ape House when it is built.

In the new house our means of confining the Apes will be as at present — namely a ditch of water. As in the case of our Mountain Gorillas and Orangs, the water will be much deeper. Although the Gorillas and the Orangs in particular are very fond of water and often play in it they will not put their heads under water; in fact most of these apes would drown very quickly. We so construct our ditches that the animals can walk back easily if they get out of their depth.

There will be plenty of viewing space for the public in

the new house and far more climbing facilities for the apes; Orangs in particular must be able to climb if they wish to do so. We installed old trees in their outside enclosure but very soon the animals pulled these to pieces so now we have welded some tubular iron pieces firmly together to form a platform onto which the animals can climb. The indoor house in the new building will have a considerable amount of vegetation which we hope will provide a natural background for the animals.

The water will be circulating continually and therefore will be fresh. The heating system will be the same as at present used — namely hot air blown into the building. This of course not only keeps the atmosphere warm and well circulated but also ensures that the the air is always fresh. Although work is now well advanced it will be some weeks yet before this house is completed but we are making every effort to have it in use by the end of the year.

There is an area of land to the south of the new building on which we contemplate erecting a series of new aviaries and we must build a new Parrot House as soon as possible.

We want to construct the building in such a way that the Parrots will have plenty of freedom to fly about and also facilities for breeding. At the same time we wish to ensure that these birds, which can be very noisy, are not a nuisance to visitors. It is surprising how many children are interested in Parrots but at the same time are extremely frightened by the noise they make. We cannot blame them; it really is ear-splitting at times.

One of the most pressing needs at the moment is the extension of our Antelope paddocks. Many of these animals are not on public show and we have no wish to put them behind bars so we propose

GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

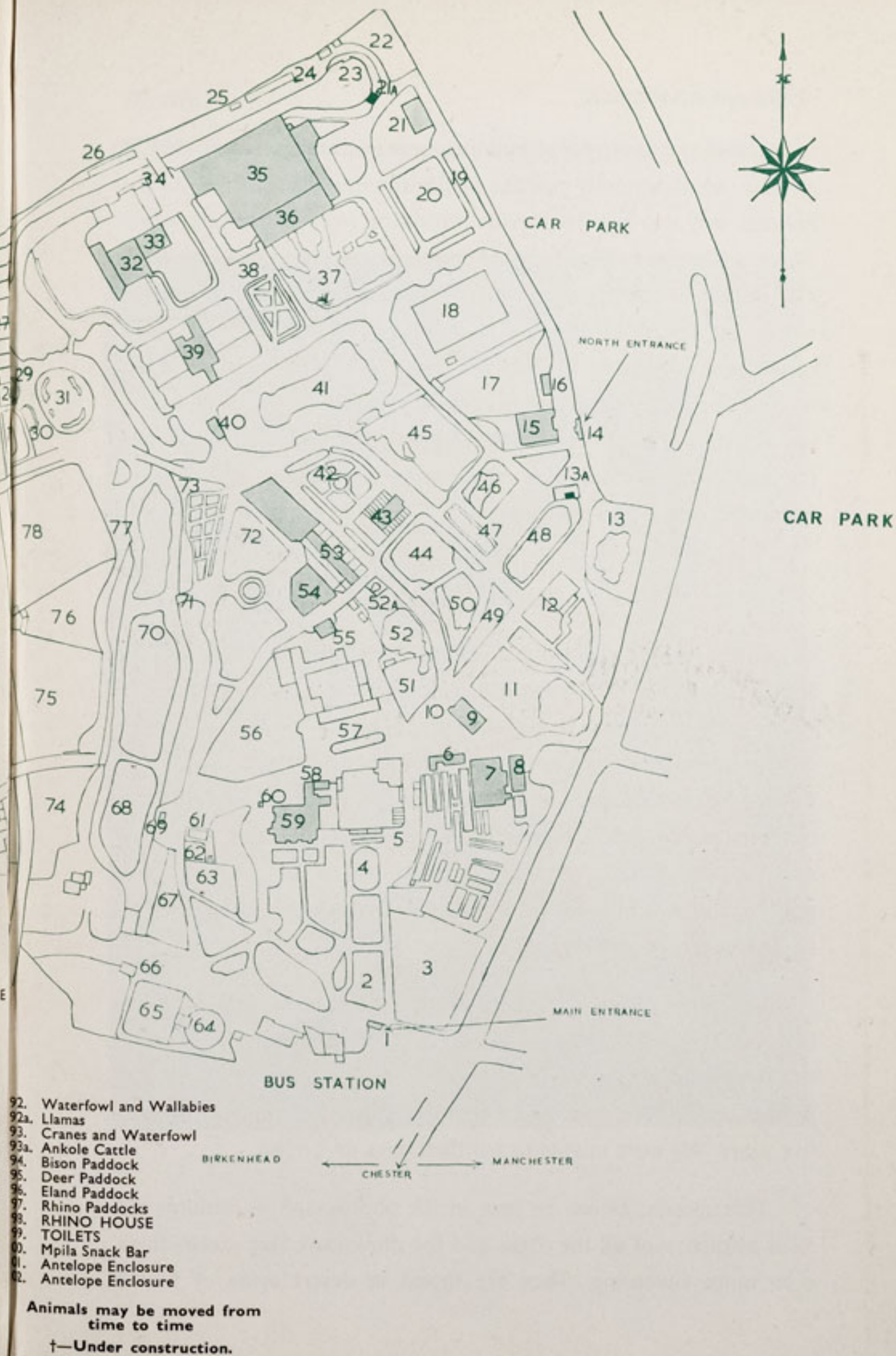
LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

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 | 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. Bridge Cafe | 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. Penguins and 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 | 48. Sea Lion Pool | 79. Kamchatka Bears |
| 16. Push Chairs and Wheel Chairs | 49. Rock Garden | 80. Elephant Paddock |
| 17.† Parrot House | 50. Polar Bears | 81. Hippo Paddock |
| 18.† Orang-utan House | 51. Tigers | 82. PACHYDERM HOUSE |
| 19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP | 52. Anteaters | 83. Tapir Enclosure |
| 20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn | 52a. Penguin Pool | 84. Small Mammal House |
| 21. TOILETS | 53. BIRD HOUSE | 85. Waterfowl Enclosure |
| 21a. Tuatara House | 54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT | 86. Antelope Enclosure |
| 22. Peccaries | 55. TOILETS | 87. Stork Enclosure |
| 23. Waterbus Halt | 56. Lions | 88. Monkey Enclosure |
| 24. Birds of Prey Aviary | 57. NEW ZOO SHOP | 89. Cat House |
| 25. Birds of Prey Aviary | 58. TOILETS | 89a. Jaguars |
| 26. Owls | 59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT | 90. MONKEY HOUSE |
| 27. Jackal Enclosures | 60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk | 91. Cranes and Waterfowl |
| 28. Wolverines | 61. Animal Enclosure | 91a. Highland Cattle |
| 29. Porcupines | 62. Animal Enclosure | |
| 30. Coypus | 63. Cheetahs | |
| 31. Beavers | | |
| 32. Giraffe House | | |



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

to continue our principle of building large enclosures surrounded by an Aha, which not only give the public an uninterrupted view of the animals but also help to provide protection from the strong winds which sometimes blow very fiercely across the Zoo grounds. Unfortunately this is one of the projects which has to be carried out during the winter months. It would be much easier if the work could be done during the summer time when the weather is drier, because the clayish soil gets quite muddy when wet. It is of course impractical to do so because of the number of visitors. Fortunately the Zoo owns much modern equipment which enables such work to be carried out in all weathers.

FENNEC FOXES

In the largest enclosure of the Small Mammal House can be seen a trio of Fennec Foxes, one male and two females. They have warm indoor quarters furnished with rockwork caves and a large outside area with rockwork, logs, bushes and thick grass. The Fennec Foxes look very fit and healthy but unfortunately we have not been successful in breeding this species. On several occasions cub-like noises have been heard from one of the burrows but whether this was just wishful thinking or not is unknown; however, no youngsters have emerged.

Fennec Foxes are often considered difficult to keep in captivity but the Chester Zoo method of plenty of space and fresh air seems to disprove their reputation of being so delicate. Our male fox has been at the Zoo for seven and a half years and the females for over five years. We were unable to tell their ages on arrival.

This species, as can be seen in the photograph, is perhaps the most attractive of all the foxes and the diminutive size makes them even more endearing. They are found in desert areas of North



FENNEC FOX

E. Kirkland, F.R.P.S.

Africa and Arabia and feed on small mammals, birds, reptiles and insects. During the heat of the day they hide in their burrows, only venturing forth at dusk and during the night to hunt.

One in particular is very tame indeed and lies out in the sunlight on top of a rockwork cave only inches from the wire mesh. Every child who passes by has to stroke the fox and strangely enough, he just stays there and never tries to bite.

NEWS FROM VARIOUS SECTIONS

As Chester Zoo is surrounded by farmland on all sides, members of staff often report unusual species of birds being seen within the grounds. During a sudden cold spell a lesser-spotted Woodpecker was observed feeding in trees close to our Bison paddock. Although these birds can be seen in the south of this country, they are considered rarities in the North: handbooks state they are very scarce in Cheshire and further north.

In the pens at the rear of the Monkey House we exhibit some flightless birds — Cassowary, Emus and Rheas. Unfortunately we have been unable to obtain a mate for our female Cassowary so she decided to go next door and visit the young male Emu. Cassowaries have very strong legs and feet so she simply kicked down the door dividing the two enclosures and walked through. Keepers were very worried in case these normally aggressive birds should attack each other but this was not the case. In fact when the Keepers tried to force separation they were attacked by the Cassowary and had to make a hasty retreat. Our Cassowary is about 7 years old and arrived at the Zoo during 1962. These birds are found in New Guinea and the extreme northern tip of Australia where they inhabit thick forests. Their colouration is almost jet black but they have colourful faces, wattles and bony structures on the head. Many tales are told



EMU AND CASSOWARY

H. Eastwood, Daily Mirror

of the strength of a Cassowary and certainly a large specimen about 5 foot high could easily disembowel a human being as it has very strong legs, with lethal claws. By comparison the Emu is rather a weakling; although about the same size, it is of a slimmer build with brown coloured feathering, rather reminiscent of an Ostrich but a great deal smaller. Emus are found in many areas of Australia, but inhabit open plains and dry areas.

It is only this year that Cassowaries have been bred for the first time in the British Isles but Emus have bred readily in captivity. We have never heard of a cross-bred one but perhaps that is looking into the future a little too hopefully.

On a recent spring-like day visitors were extremely pleased to see our Beavers out on their island feeding on the carrots and potatoes given to them by their keeper. In the normal way these animals only venture forth to eat or to construct their Lodges, where they live and breed. However, with such sunny conditions they lingered over their food which had been placed on a grassy bank of their island. Then they dived into the water and disappeared from view entering the Lodge below the water level. At a glance, our Beaver's Lodge looks like a huge mound of mud and rather artificial. However, the Beavers are entirely responsible, spending a great deal of their time building with the mud and branches to form a complex home with underwater entrances. Unfortunately they have developed a habit of constructing their lodge against the boundary wall and then escaping, so keepers have to demolish this part with shovels at frequent intervals. In the photograph on the opposite page the Beavers' flat paddle-like tail can be seen and is used to enable them to swim at great speed.

'Reginald' the Black Rhinoceros, born on the 10th September, 1967, has been separated from his mother and now occupies the



BEAVERS

K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

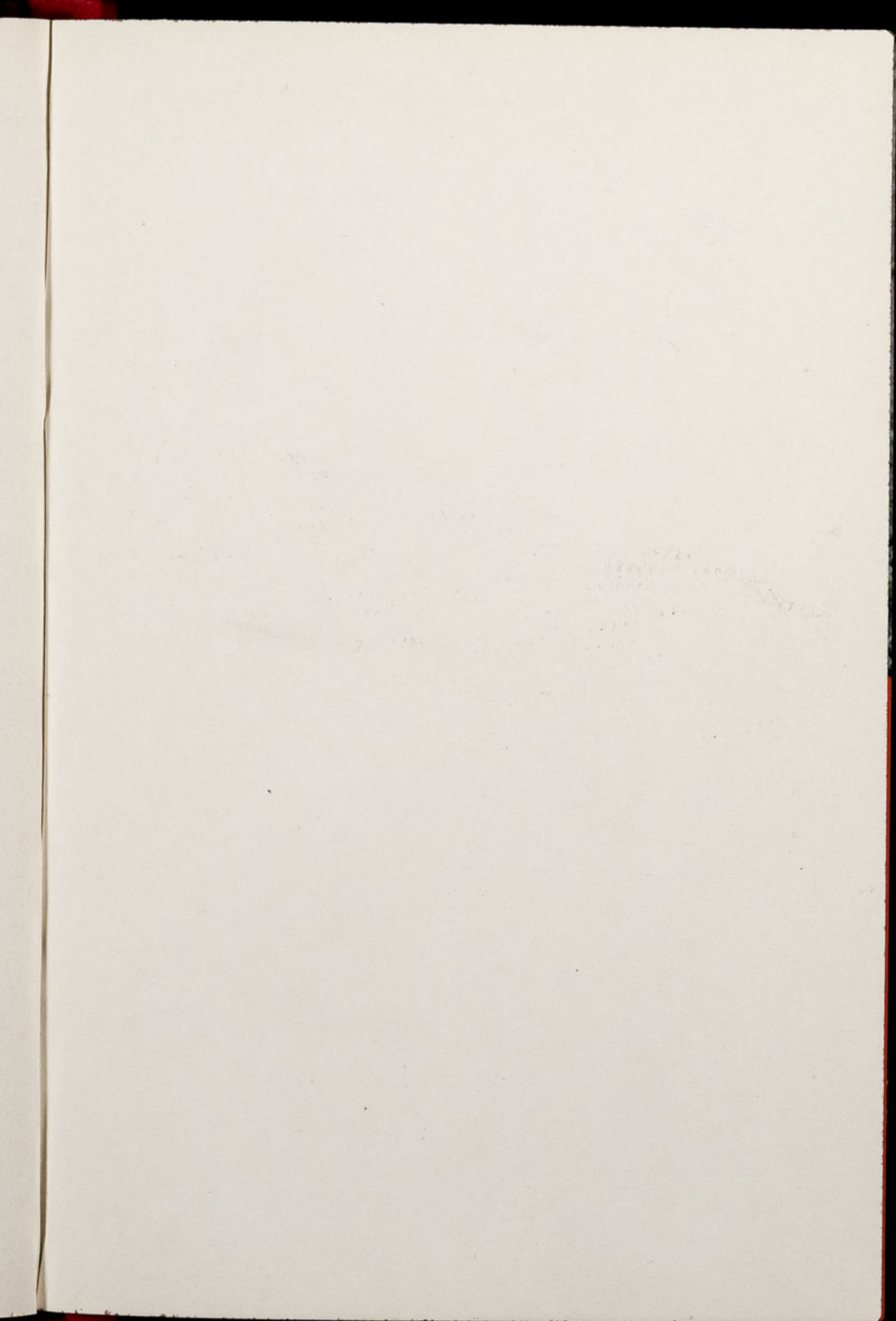
smallest pen in the Rhino House. When first separated he gave voice to loud squealing noises and was most agitated but has now settled down well. His mother, 'Susie', has been placed with our male Black Rhinoceros, 'Roger', in the hope that they will breed again. Unfortunately absence did not seem to make the heart grow fonder in their case as they fought quite viciously but have since settled amicably together. 'Reginald' is however allowed to visit his mother occasionally.

He is the first Rhinoceros to be born at Chester Zoo and only the fourth to be born anywhere in this country. He has grown extremely well and has proved a very hardy youngster — at the moment he is about half the size of his mother.

The summer bedding which has been such a wonderful blaze of colour during the last few months has now all been removed. A large number of Pansies have been planted and these will make a show throughout the winter and early spring. The rock gardens close to the main gate have been most attractive all through the season.

Members of the public will be sad to hear of the sudden death of 'Tammy' the Chimpanzee. 'Tammy' was hand-reared by the Curator and his wife when deserted by his mother and had been accommodated at the Zoo since last Easter. When born he had a hernia which we knew would require attention but despite a few set-backs with colds, etc., he seemed to be doing very well. Eventually the time arrived when the operation could not be deferred any longer but unfortunately 'Tammy' died whilst under the anaesthetic.

The next lecture for members of the society will be held on Saturday, 22nd March, 1969.



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