

W. SIMS

"Our Zoo News"

● A CHRONICLE OF NEWS OF ●
CHESTER ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

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A charming picture of a Lioness with her three Cubs.

We now have a pride of Lions in the enclosure at Chester Zoo. This consists of two male lions and two lionesses, all forest bred, together with their offspring.

(Photograph—Mr. Eric Kirkland, F.R.P.S.)

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Our Zoo News.

VISITORS.

1958 has been a record year for attendances at Chester Zoo. Up to the time of going to press, the total number of Visitors was 640,000, which is an increase of over 115,000 on the figures for last year.

This increase in attendances is remarkable when one considers how bad the weather has been this year, and we can only assume that it is due to our new additions and the developments which have taken place during the last few years.

PROGRAMME.

Work is now in progress on many new projects. Probably the biggest alteration taking place is the extension of our waterways, along which we will construct more islands for the accommodation of the various animals and birds. When completed, the waterways will be an ideal mode of transport through the Gardens, as it will be possible to view many exhibits en route.

We are also building a new bird house and aviaries. During this season we scrapped our original parrot breeding aviaries, which required a great deal of repair, and on this site we are erecting new aviaries which will provide not only flights, but indoor accommodation for many birds. At the same time we are improving our service facilities, to enable the Keepers to carry out their duties more efficiently.

This scheme is only now being commenced, but we propose to construct the building in such a way that it can be extended in future as further aviaries are dismantled. We also intend to provide cover for the public, to enable them to see many of the birds during bad weather.

NOCTURNAL HOUSE.

Our Nocturnal House is proving a great success, and its approach through the Pygmy Hippo House has been a delight to the thousands who

have visited it. In addition to its open air enclosure, the Pygmy Hippo has an attractive tropical setting for its indoor quarters. There are many things to be said in favour of this method of exhibiting the Pygmy Hippo, as these animals, like their larger brothers, are renowned for their obnoxious smell, but here it is practically non-existent. The spaciousness of the animal's indoor quarters, together with the large assortment of tropical vegetation, appear to have the effect of absorbing this odour. This method has proved so successful that we intend to incorporate the same principle in our new Elephant House.

CHIMPANZEE NEWS.

Babu, one of our adult female Chimpanzees, has given birth to a youngster for the third time. On each occasion she has steadfastly refused to have anything to do with her infant, completely ignoring it as though it did not exist.

On the first occasion, Babu delivered her baby on one of the bridges connected to the Chimpanzee Islands, and immediately ran away and left it. Needless to say, several of the other Chimpanzees killed the little animal within a very short space of time.

Babu's second baby was born during the night, and it was found later, very cold, on the floor of the cage. Apparently Babu had taken no notice of it whatever and although the baby was rescued and every effort made to revive it, it died within a few days.

On this third occasion, Babu's baby was again found on the floor of her sleeping quarters, very cold and helpless, having apparently been born an hour or two before. This time the baby was taken away from its mother, and we were fortunate in having Mrs. Reg. Bloom, who is exceedingly proficient in the handling of all kinds of livestock. Mrs. Bloom has taken the baby chimp. into her house, and it is being reared almost like a human baby. We are happy to say that after a month it is doing remarkably well, and we feel sure that our readers will be interested to read the following account of the baby chimp.'s progress, which has been written by Mrs. Reg. Bloom.



Jimmy and Paul.

Our two Orang Utans, Jimmy and Paul, are seen here on their island at Chester Zoo. Jimmy, the elder, is exceedingly fond of clothes and thoroughly enjoys dressing up. He is particularly fond of walking in an upright position like a human being, and causes a great deal of amusement among the visitors when parading around his enclosure in someone's cast-off clothing.

(Photograph—Mr. and Mrs. Sorby).



Baby Chimpanzee.

This photograph of the baby Chimpanzee was taken when she was a fortnight old.

(Photograph—Mr. and Mrs. Sorby).

DIARY OF A CHIMPANZEE.

It is hoped to keep fairly complete records of the growth-rate and general progress of the young chimpanzee so that readers may be kept in touch with her history from the time of her birth until she is old enough to take her place amongst the other members of the Chester Zoo chimp. colony.

This baby—a female—was found early on the morning of 16th October, lying unattended in the straw bedding. When she was picked up she was thoroughly cold and it was some time before her temperature rose sufficiently to register even 95 degrees F. on the thermometer. Surrounded by three hot water bottles and covered by a blanket, she was cradled in a baby's bath in a room where the temperature was gradually raised to 90 degrees F. In the late afternoon the chimp's body temperature eventually reached 98.4 F. which was assumed to be normal. No serious attempt was made to feed her until late evening, when she accepted about two drachms of glucose and water.

Her body weight was three pounds twelve ounces and once warmed, she appeared to be a healthy, full-term off-spring; however, because of her small size and her thorough chilling, she was

given the treatment afforded to a premature human baby. The room temperature was kept at 85-90 degrees F. and a steaming kettle provided a relative humidity in the region of 80% to 90%. During the course of the second day and night she took about $1\frac{3}{4}$ ounces of a solution of one part evaporated milk to seven parts of boiled water, taking a teaspoonful or so at a time. However, the main effort was concentrated not so much on getting her to accept food, as to maintaining her body temperature at a fairly regular level.

Commencing on the third day after birth, she was put on a three-hourly feed schedule with three drachms of a one-in-seven dilution of evaporated milk at each feed. Over the following nine days, both the strength of the feed and the quantity were increased until by the twelfth day she was accepting 1-2 oz. at each feed and was having seven feeds during the 24 hours. Adexolin and Vitamin C were gradually introduced, and she took these daily from a spoon. During the following fortnight she was changed over to a "feed on demand" principle, and now she takes about $3\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. at a time. She still has seven feeds over the 24 hours but these are at roughly four-hour intervals, and are now a one-in-two dilution.

The baby chimp. is weighed once weekly. At the end of the first week she was found to have maintained her birth weight exactly, by the second week she had gained six ounces, by the third a further twelve ounces, and at a month she was found to have put on a further twelve ounces. Thus her weight at a month was 5 lbs. 8 ozs., showing a total gain of 1 lb. 12 ozs.

During the first month her body temperature has gradually adjusted itself until she is less affected by the temperature of the surrounding atmosphere. Whereas at first every increase or de-



Two Young Bull African Elephants at present occupying the Rhino Enclosure.

These Elephants are growing so rapidly that they are now far too large for their present quarters, and frequently succeed in pushing their trunks through the roof.

This winter we intend to commence an entirely new Elephant House where all our elephants can be accommodated. We hope to incorporate a pool inside this building, so that these animals will be able to indulge in a bath indoors in the winter, as well as out of doors in the summer.

In addition to their new house, we propose to give the elephants a fairly large paddock where they can roam and enjoy more freedom.

(Photograph—Mr. and Mrs. Sorby).

crease in the room temperature produced a relative rise and fall in her body temperature, now the room temperature can vary, or remain as low as 70 degrees F. and she will keep a fairly constant 98 degrees F. However, should the room temperature become low during the period she is waiting for her next feed to come along, her body temperature will again drop to as low as 95 degrees F. Once fed, winded and settled down to sleep however, her body temperature will rise to 98 degrees or thereabouts, even if the room temperature is still comparatively low. She has now dispensed with hot water bottles, except on very cold nights.

During the first few days she made little noise apart from an occasional shriek of protest when being handled. Now she has a small repertoire of chimp noises, and will often answer back when spoken to, with imitation chimp calls.

The baby chimp. has made far greater progress than a human child in regard to movements. She has always had an excellent grip in both feet and hands, but even so this has increased until it is now quite difficult to disengage oneself from her grasp. If lying face downwards she can now raise her head and hold it steady for some period, and when held up by her hands, she can bend her arms and support her own weight, and in the same way she can pull herself to the edge of a table or up to the edge of the bath in which she still sleeps. She is extremely sensitive to external noises and will jump with fright if a door slams or there is some other sudden noise.

So far it has not been possible to get an accurate estimate of what could be regarded as a normal pulse rate, but at the moment it seems to be fairly fast—in the region of 140 to 160 per minute.

She is a contented baby and is now reaching the stage where she will often lie awake for a while between feeds and fidget about of her own accord. She will

very soon be requiring more exercise and movement during the course of the day.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Greed of Bristol Zoo for very generously putting at our disposal full details concerning the treatment given by them to their baby chimp. which they hand-reared some months ago.

Our chimp. as yet un-named, has already aroused considerable interest, and we are grateful to the many doctors and others who have come forward with advice and assistance regarding her welfare.

Meg, who bred the first Chimpanzee at Chester Zoo, has now given birth to a second baby, and we are pleased to say that they are both doing well. Meg had her first baby three years ago, but unfortunately lost it when it was about 18 months old, during a very severe influenza epidemic. We sincerely hope that she will be more successful with her new baby.

There have been one or two further additions of Chimpanzees during the last few months, and we are happy to say that although they are all adults, they have settled down quite well with the colony, and are thriving.

LEOPARD CUBS.

During the last two months, two of the leopardesses have given birth to cubs, but in each case they have lost one. We are pleased to report that the surviving youngsters are doing very well indeed.

SEA LIONS.

We have recently received a very nice donation of one male and three female Sea Lions from the Parks Committee of the City of Montreal, where their Children's Zoo has closed down for the winter.

The Sea Lions travelled to England by air, and have settled down very well in our large Sea Lion pool. It was very interesting to watch the newcomers when they were first introduced into the pool—they swam quite fearlessly up to Sammy, the old male who has



Bengal Tiger.

Our Bengal Tigers have grown into very lovely specimens, and we hope that as they get older they will breed as freely as our lions.

(Photograph—Mr. and Mrs. Sorby).

been at the Zoo for many years, and kissed him on the mouth!

As a matter of fact, Sammy has had rather a bad record in the past. When he was a young man, he apparently was very selective with his wives, and he murdered any that did not please him! However, he has had two wives living with him for the last four or five years, and appears to be quite pleased to have the new additions with him. They make a wonderful show as they swim and plunge about in their pool.

BEARS.

We have also received a pair of Himalayan Bear cubs recently—a gift from His Highness The Ameer of Bahawalpur. These bring our bear population to about 20. The following species are now represented in the collection at the Zoological Gardens at Chester: Polar Bears, Kamchatka Bears, Russian Brown Bears, Himalayan Bears, Sloth Bears, Malayan Bears and Syrian Bears.

Our Kamchatka Bear Enclosure is now completed, and the bears are in residence. They

have a much larger enclosure and pool than the Polar Bears, and a terrace has been erected around the enclosure, so that the bears can be seen from all sides. This terrace is approached from the Bridge which was one of our main developments last winter, connecting the new land to the Zoo, and a wonderful view of the Zoo can be obtained from it.

ALLIGATORS.

We have been very pleased to receive a very fine Alligator from the Dublin Zoo, which has been placed in the large pool in the Pygmy Hippo House.

There are quite a number of young alligators and crocodiles growing up at the Zoo. When we build our large Tropical House there will be several pools which will be filled with these aquatic specimens.

PHOTOGRAPHS.

We regret that we omitted to state in our last Zoo News that all the photographs were taken by Mr. and Mrs. Sorby.



A Llama and her Baby.

We now have several Llamas at Chester Zoo. Until we can prepare our new enclosure for them, they are distributed in various paddocks, but eventually they will be accommodated in the new section of the Zoo which we are about to develop.

(Photograph—Mr. and Mrs. Sorby).

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