

"OUR ZOO NEWS"

Number Sixteen

February 1939

The first month of Nineteen Thirtynine has been a treacherous month for the Zoo. From very severe cold weather at the beginning we were suddenly plunged into mild weather, the snow vanishing as if by magic, only to return just as suddenly, surely some of the animals that were spending their first winter in this country must have wondered what had happened, but on the whole their health has been fairly good. Those whose job it was to look after them, seemed to suffer most, and at one time more than half the staff were ill at once, but now that January has passed, all feel that Spring is on the way, and we have noticed on several days lately that the birds have been showing a new interest in life.

The Zoo has received two outstanding additions during January. First a very nice Himalayan Bear from Doctor Deacon of Waterloo, with the strange name of Won Lung, but our new friend with the Chinese name is really very docile and quite a pet. We had hoped that he would be a pal for Trotsky the young Russian Bear, but he was so frightened of this dear little fellow that we had to remove him to a home of his own.

The other addition is another Malayan Sun Bear from Sir Delves Broughton of Doddington. This is a female known as Teeny. Miss Teeny as we have called her, is much smaller than Sally, and only about a quarter the size of Sammy, who is by the way getting very big. We felt rather anxious when we introduced Miss Teeny to Sally and Sammy, as we doubted how Sammy would treat her, but we had no need to worry over her as Sammy evidently fell for a young love straight away, and at once took her under his care, much to the annoyance of Sally who, perhaps very rightly, objected to the other woman coming into her home, particularly as she was young and pretty.

However, seeing that she could not get rid of her, Sally very disdainfully puts up with her, and looks on at Sammy's overtures to Miss Teeny with a nasty look in her eye, but says nothing.

The snow made a terrible mess of the Bear Enclosure and this was aggravated by the bears who would simply turn the mud over and over, excavating great holes in the clay, and floundering about in the slush as if it was their greatest joy in life. One could not help but liken them to those children who simply must play in mud and water, but we, if only for appearance sake will be glad to have a warm sun to dry up this muddy mess, whether the bears like it or not.

Quite recently the Zoo received a pair of African Grey Parrots which has been very kindly presented by Doctor George M. Gray of London, who has been to Africa and had these birds sent to us.

Upon collecting them at Liverpool we were told one was a good talker, or rather a bad one, for his language at times is not fit for publication. We thought on collecting these birds that we were having our legs pulled as the birds were supposed to be both young and freshly caught. Imagine our surprise when nearing the Zoo a voice came from the box "What the --- are you trying to teach it now". The bird no doubt had been receiving tuition on its journey from Africa. How it will behave with the public this summer we don't know, but it told a waitress at the Zoo its opinion of her in a language that young lady resented. However, now that it is in more genteel company we hope it will learn truer English.

By far the pleasantest spot in the Zoo in January has been the Tropical Aquarium, where some really interesting events have been happening. First the pair of *Barbus Tetrazonas* have spawned, but unfortunately the young did not survive more than a few days.

The *Aquiden Curviceps* have spawned once or twice without success, but this is not to be wondered at, as their tank still contains a lot of their last young ones.

At the moment we have a very nice shoal of Dwarf Gourami. This is really the first time we have had them to spawn. We only have one female, but several males, which are by the way a most charming sight, and envied by many. For the benefit of visitors our Aquarium keeper has fixed a magnifying glass in front of the tank, so that visitors whose eyesight is not of the best may view the little fish, which to the average person are almost invisible soon after birth.

With now only a few weeks to Easter, the Zoo has to think seriously of getting ready for its real season, although the attendance even now is beginning to creep up after Christmas, it is at Easter that the Zoo comes into its own for the summer months.

Much work has to be done during these few weeks, so that the public will see everything at its best. All will be glad to see the Spring again and the visitors in large numbers, but none so much as the animals. It is obvious to everyone how they welcome those who come to see them.

This year we will have a much larger stock for the public to see, and more varied, and we hope we will have the pleasure of catering for much larger crowds. It might not be out of place here to remind readers that if they are interested in any social work that arranges summer outings, to try the Zoo. The Zoo offers an ideal outing for Sunday Schools, Choir trips, works outings etc, for in addition to the Zoo there are the delightful gardens, and for those who require a field for games or sports we have the ideal accommodation, and our catering is sure to please. So when this years outing is being considered, remember the Zoo, and apart from having an enjoyable day, you will be helping to provide for the animals.

You might say, Yes, a visit to the Zoo is very nice, but you might not wish to spend the whole day there, well, almost on the doorstep is the City of Chester, which abounds with interest, and a river which has long been popular for its boating and river trips. So between the Zoo and this ancient city, much is offered to the visitor.

Members will think this is of little interest to them, but whereas "Our Zoo News" was founded mainly for them, its circulation has so grown that it is now taken by people all over the Country, and that is why we may be excused for drawing the attention of trippers to the Zoo.

Our Appeal has only made a small advance since Christmas, this of course may be accounted for by several reasons, last but not least being the Income Tax calls, but we trust that something will be left for the fund, which we hope will reach a figure to enable our Society to start level at the beginning of the season.

On Sunday evening 12th March an Orchestral Concert is being given in the Gaumont Palace Chester, in aid of the fund. The artists include the Merseyside Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Louis Cohen, the soloists being Mr. Dale Smith, baritone, and Mr. Stephen Waring, pianist. We would be very pleased if readers can help us to dispose of tickets which will be priced at 1/6, 2/6, 3/6, and 5/- each, and we can assure all that this will be a very good concert, but we shall give further particulars in the next issue. We can even now say that the items to be played will include :-

- Pomp and Circumstance (Elgar)
- Blue Danube (Johann Strauss)
- William Tell (Rossini)
- Hungarian Fantasia (Liszt)
- Largo (Handel)
- Invitation to the Waltz (Weber)
- Serenade (Heykens)
- Molly on the Shore (Granger)

in addition to other works, and solos.

A lantern lecture is being given by a representative of the Zoo to the Llandudno & District Field Club at Colwyn Bay on "Chester Zoo" when a collection will be made in aid of the Zoo Appeal Fund. We should be very pleased to arrange to give such a lecture to any institution on payment of travelling expenses on the same terms.

	£.	s.	d.
Previously acknowledged	289.	0.	0.
G. Biddulph Eaton	5.	5.	0.
H.H.Edis	2.	2.	0.
W.G.Bills	2.	2.	0.
C.Greenwood	2.	2.	0.
Mrs.D.Egerton	1.	1.	0.
Mrs.Birch	1.	1.	0.
Dr.G.A.Fulton	1.	1.	0.
Dr.Kerr	1.	1.	0.
T. Thompson	1.	1.	0.
J.S.Haughton	1.	1.	0.
Miss.P.M.Griffith	1.	1.	0.
Per P.H.Bennett	13.	0.	
L.Mottershead	10.	6.	
E.Hope	10.	0.	
Per Mrs.Johnston	2.	6.	

£ 309.14. 0.

MARY, KIKI AND I.

We've just been thinking things over,
Mary, Kiki and I,
Of people who come in occasionally,
To watch our antics, then fly.

We wonder why they do not come often,
And get to know all our ways,
There are so many looks we could soften,
If they would only do more than gaze.

There are things that we love to play with,
Almost anything which interests you,
For remember there's not much divides us,
Just me, Mary, Kiki and you.

There are people who don't like to admit it,
Although in their heart of hearts,
They fear there is something in it,
And they don't like us throwing darts.

But just think of us as part human,
And treat us as you would a friend,
By giving us credit to reason,
The amount of the love you extend.

Our home in the past was a jungle,
But now it's just a large cage,
So don't try and make a great bungle
By driving us into a rage.

Just offer us friendship, and freedom
To engage in the games that we love,
By forgetting the life that is boredom,
We shall be as content as a dove.

So friends come again soon to see us,
Don't ask me the reason why,
Just bring us a basket of Lotus,
For Mary, Kiki and I.

Jarzana