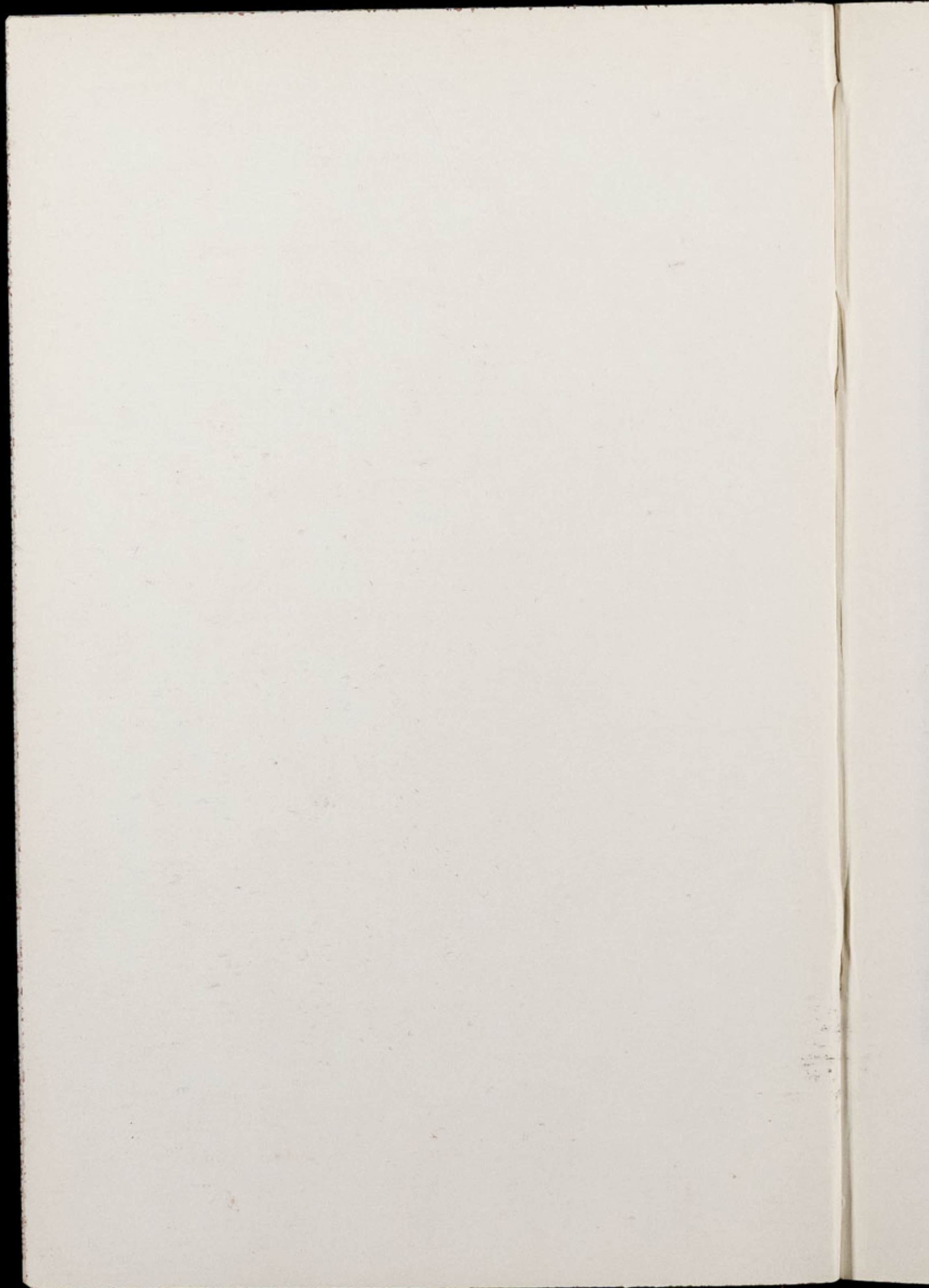




CHESTER ZOO NEWS
AND GUIDE

March 1968

Price 1/-



The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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COVER: This month's cover photograph is of "Martha" a female Orang-Utan. For further details see page six.

By Courtesy of K. W. Green, Esq., A.R.P.S.

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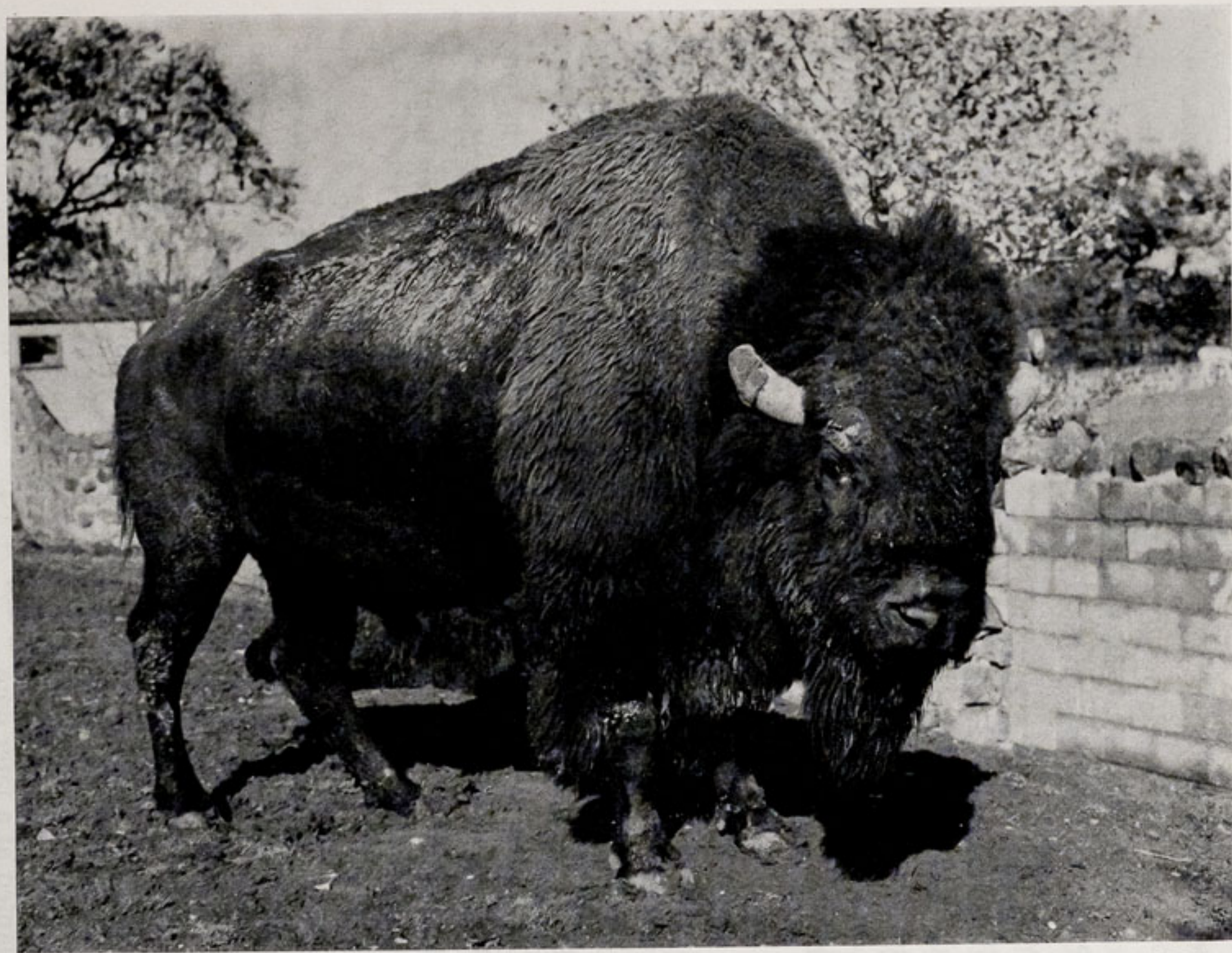
Two Rufous-bellied Wallabies in enclosure No. 67 have young in their pouches. These youngsters are very small indeed and can only be seen as a slight bulge in the mother's pouch. We have not tried to photograph these Wallabies as any disturbance at this stage could result in loss of the young. The Red-bellied is a very small species of Wallaby which is found in South East Australia and Tasmania. They can be rather difficult to keep but once acclimatized to British weather, seem fairly hardy.

Roger Ainsley, keeper in charge of the Reptile Section, reports that very little has happened in his section during the month. He is starting to re-paint the interior walls of the vivariums in readiness for the forthcoming season.

At the far end of the Monkey House are three open-air enclosures for our Spider and Capuchin Monkeys. Originally the enclosures were provided with a turf floor which although attractive proved difficult to clean. Reluctantly we replaced the turf with a concrete floor which is easy to hose down and far more hygienic.

It is always rather sad when an old favourite dies after many years at the Zoo but death takes its toll in the animal world just as it does with humans. Such was the case with "Ferdie" our bull American Bison, who must have been approaching 30. He had been at the Zoo for many years and had become a firm favourite due to his tameness and good nature. We are endeavouring to find a replacement male in order to continue our breeding successes with these animals.

Most people assume that it is only Deer with huge branching antlers which cast them and grow a new set. This is untrue as the growing of antlers is a gradual process and a full set is not acquired until the animal is several years old. John Willis, keeper in charge of the Père David's Deer recently found a pair of antlers cast by "Russell" an 18 month old stag, which were only two inches long.



AMERICAN BISON

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

"Reginald" the baby Rhinoceros born on 10th September, 1967, has grown considerably since birth and we estimate that he weighs in the region of 400lbs. He goes outside with his mother on warm days and thoroughly enjoys a run around the paddock.

A number of Prairie Marmots have been born in the Eland Paddock (No. 96 on the Plan). The Marmots are grey-coloured when young but otherwise are exact replicas of the parents and gradually turn to brown as they become older. With the addition of these youngsters there must be at least 40 Marmots but they are never all seen out of their burrows at the same time so that an accurate count cannot be made. A rabbit has also made a home with the Marmots and both species live in complete harmony.

Work is still in progress on the construction of the Zebra Aha for the enclosure No. 78. The eight Fallow Deer which share this enclosure with the Zebras were kept in a small wire-fenced enclosure whilst the work was continuing. During the night the stag damaged the netting with his antlers and they all escaped. Les Nield the keeper in charge of this section was met by one Fallow hind when he came through the Time Office at 8 o'clock in the morning. The others were soon rounded up and taken back to their paddock.

Gardening staff are busy constructing an Alpine Garden close to the Main Entrance. Mr. P. W. Gallup the Head Gardener who is responsible for the layout says it will incorporate lawns, two waterfalls, a heather garden and pathways. Natural sandstone rock-work is being used extensively and it is estimated that 1,000 tons of soil has been used. Initially 1,000 Alpine plants will be set, planting taking place at the end of March; a further 500 will be planted at a later date.

ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

"Meg", the Chimpanzee has given birth to another baby. During May 1967 she gave birth to "Tammy" but would not look

after him and he was hand-reared by the Curator. The gestation period for Chimpanzees is a little over eight months, so "Meg" must be one of the most prolific Chimps in captivity. She is caring for the new arrival and so far we have not experienced any difficulties, although "Meg" had to be separated from the other Chimpanzees as she was leaving the baby in the straw. "Meg" is one of the oldest of our fourteen Chimps: she arrived at the Zoo during January 1950 and was then estimated to be two and a half years old. Since 1956, she has given birth to eight youngsters but has not proved a particularly good mother and several of the babies had to be hand-reared by members of the Zoo staff. During the past twelve months three Chimps have been born at the Zoo; two to "Meg" and one to "Julie" and we are extremely pleased with the breeding success of this species.

Two new arrivals in the Mammal House were Siberian Ground Squirrels. We now have nine of these attractively striped squirrels, all of which were presented to the Zoo. Many have been brought to this country in recent years and sold as pets, but prove difficult to tame. However, a friendly one makes a very good pet and its requirements are not too complicated.

Two adult Agile Gibbons were presented to the Zoo by Mr. G. R. Pryor, a Member of the Society and have been accommodated temporarily in one of the Baboon enclosures between the Monkey and Cat Houses. Agile Gibbons originate from the forests of Sumatra and South Asia. They are very similar to the Lar Gibbons already in the collection at the Zoo but lack the white hands of this species. In common with the Lar Gibbon, this species is variable in general colouration and has often been divided into a number of sub-species. Agile Gibbons are at home high in the thick forests and as their name implies, are extremely agile. They are said to be able to leap 40 feet when passing from branch to branch and have been observed catching birds whilst on the wing.

NOTES ON COVER PHOTOGRAPH

This month's cover photograph is of "Martha" the Orang-utan, pictured whilst in a pensive mood. She was having a photograph taken of her finger, which is slightly crooked, when Mr. Green, the photographer, noticed the expression on her face and took a close-up. The crooked finger causes "Martha" no trouble whatsoever, and must have been acquired in her native Borneo, prior to her arrival at Chester Zoo, during May 1966.

"Martha" is about four years old and shares an enclosure in the Monkey House with her mate "Kimbu". Both these animals were sent to us by Mr. and Mrs. Harrison of the Sarawak Museum, who have done so much to protect Orangs in Borneo.

Upon completion of the new Orang-utan House, "Kimbu" and "Martha" will join our other Orangs in this building.

AQUARIUM NEWS

In common with the rest of the plants at the Zoo, the vegetation in the Aquarium is beginning to grow and the tanks are becoming more natural in appearance. A number of Cichlids have been excavating holes in the gravel on the floor of their tanks and laying eggs. Young Cichlids need a great deal of protection from other large fish so we are not expecting great success in rearing them.

The Aquarium is being re-stocked with a number of the more common varieties of fish. Many of the small fish have a life span of only 2-3 years and therefore need replacing.

Rather interesting new arrivals were Indian Glassfish (*Chanda ranga*) from India, Burma and Thailand. These fish are 2-3 inches long and are completely transparent.

The Axolotls have hatched and are being fed on Daphnia, a small freshwater crustacea. Axolotls are found in lakes in the mountains of Mexico at altitudes of 5,000 feet, where the conditions are cool. They are therefore best kept at a cool temperature, their eggs taking about 6 weeks to hatch at 40°F. If the temperature is increased the eggs will hatch more quickly but the young are weakened by this and normally die. At the Zoo our Axolotls always breed during the winter when the water in their tank is at its coldest.

Axolotls are the larval form of the Tiger Salamander and are able to breed in this state, a most unusual occurrence among creatures in larval form. When the Axolotl changes into a Salamander it leaves the water altogether, its gills dry up, it grows eyelids and produces yellow spots on the skin. This process takes place when the water level drops during a dry spell, thus forcing the Axolotl to use its lungs to breathe. At the Zoo we do not let our Axolotls change as the Salamander does not look much different from a show point of view and they breed just as well in the larval state.

BIRD NOTES

A cock Turquoise Parrakeet has been purchased as a mate for the hen bird already in residence. Two Barraband and two Pennant Parrakeets bred at the Zoo during previous years have been sold to make room for other species.

The young Curassows have been separated from their parents and placed in an aviary in the Temperate Bird House, the adults remaining at liberty in this building. Although exceptionally good parents, these Curassows attack their own young when they come into breeding condition and the young which are the same size as the adults and perfectly capable of looking after themselves, have to be transferred for their own safety. Obviously this behaviour

GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

SEA LIONS—2-40, 3-40, 4-40 p.m.

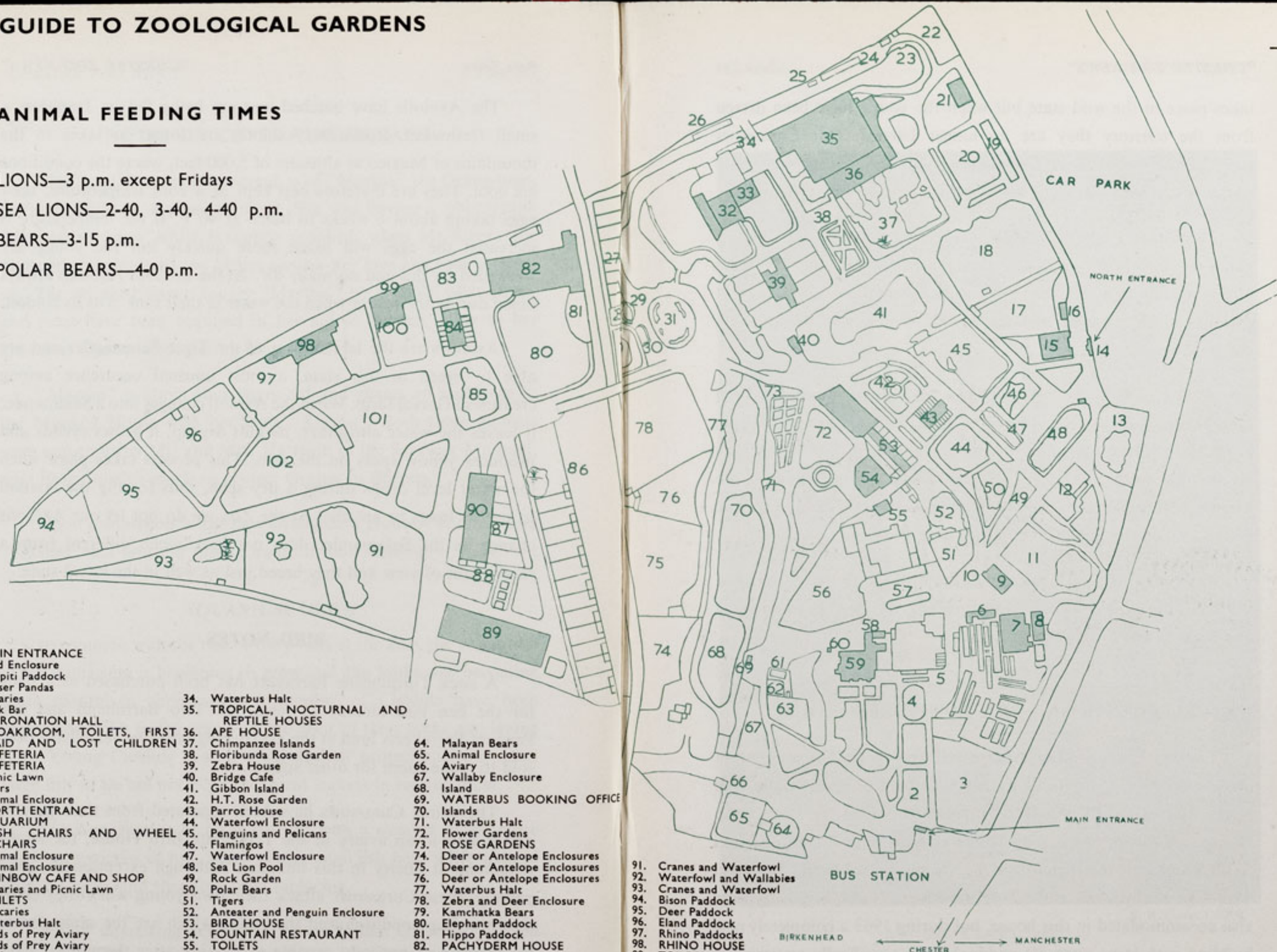
BEARS—3-15 p.m.

POLAR BEARS—4-0 p.m.

1. MAIN ENTRANCE
2. Bird Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Lesser Pandas
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS, FIRST AID AND LOST CHILDREN
9. CAFETERIA
10. CAFETERIA
11. Picnic Lawn
12. Bears
13. Animal Enclosure
14. NORTH ENTRANCE
15. AQUARIUM
16. PUSH CHAIRS AND WHEEL CHAIRS
17. Animal Enclosure
18. Animal Enclosure
19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP
20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
21. TOILETS
22. Peccaries
23. Waterbus Halt
24. Birds of Prey Aviary
25. Birds of Prey Aviary
26. Owls
27. Jackal Enclosures
28. Wolverines
29. Porcupines
30. Coypus
31. Beavers
32. Giraffe House
33. Camel House
34. Waterbus Halt
35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES
36. APE HOUSE
37. Chimpanzee Islands
38. Floribunda Rose Garden
39. Zebra House
40. Bridge Cafe
41. Gibbon Island
42. H.T. Rose Garden
43. Parrot House
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Penguins and Pelicans
46. Flamingos
47. Waterfowl Enclosure
48. Sea Lion Pool
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Tigers
52. Anteater and Penguin Enclosure
53. BIRD HOUSE
54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT
55. TOILETS
56. Lions
57. NEW ZOO SHOP
58. TOILETS
59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT
60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk
61. Animal Enclosure
62. Animal Enclosures
63. Cheetahs
64. Malayan Bears
65. Animal Enclosure
66. Aviary
67. Wallaby Enclosure
68. Island
69. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE
70. Islands
71. Waterbus Halt
72. Flower Gardens
73. ROSE GARDENS
74. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
75. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
76. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
77. Waterbus Halt
78. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
79. Kamchatka Bears
80. Elephant Paddock
81. Hippo Paddock
82. PACHYDERM HOUSE
83. Tapir Paddock
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Ankole Cattle
87. Stork Enclosures
88. Monkey Enclosures
89. Cat House
90. MONKEY HOUSE

91. Cranes and Waterfowl
92. Waterfowl and Wallabies
93. Cranes and Waterfowl
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.



BIRKENHEAD

CHESTER

MANCHESTER

takes place in the wild state but when the young have been driven from the territory they are no longer harried. Our Curassows consider the whole of the Temperate Bird House as their territory so the young have no means of escape, if not caught by their keeper.

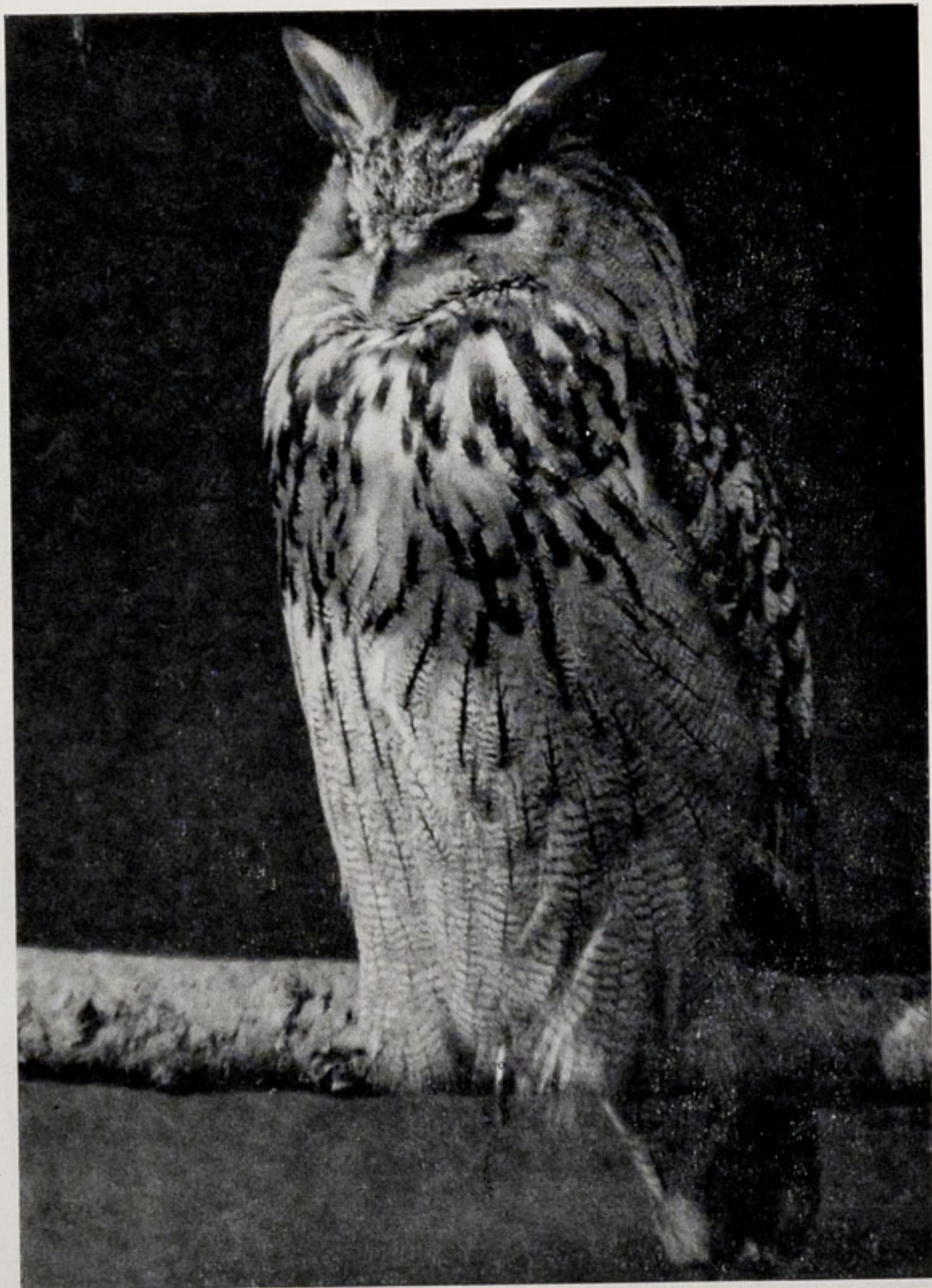
The Great Eagle Owls in aviary No. 5 are showing signs of going to nest again — last year they reared four young. The male bird is starting to attack the keeper as he enters the aviary and great care has to be taken as an Eagle Owl is very powerful with long, sharp claws.

A pair of Bahama Pintail Ducks have been transferred from the Mandarin Pond (No. 47 on the Plan) to the Mammal House Pond No. 85. Last year they tried to nest but were disturbed by the other Ducks in their original enclosure. Reeds will be planted in the Mammal House Pond to provide extra protection for nesting and we hope to breed the Bahama Pintails during this year.

The Scaly-breasted Lorikeets in the Bird House have two eggs. We have been most successful in breeding this species in the past and hope to rear young again this year.

ELEPHANTS AND THE PACHYDERM HOUSE

Chester Zoo has always been well known for the amount of accommodation given to all its animals and this is especially true in the case of the Elephants. Their house is called the Pachyderm House — pachyderm meaning "thick skinned animal". In addition to the Elephants, the Hippos and Tapirs are housed in this building. The other Pachyderms at the Zoo, the Rhinoceroses, originally were also accommodated in this house, but during 1963 a completely new building with large open air paddocks was specifically constructed for them.

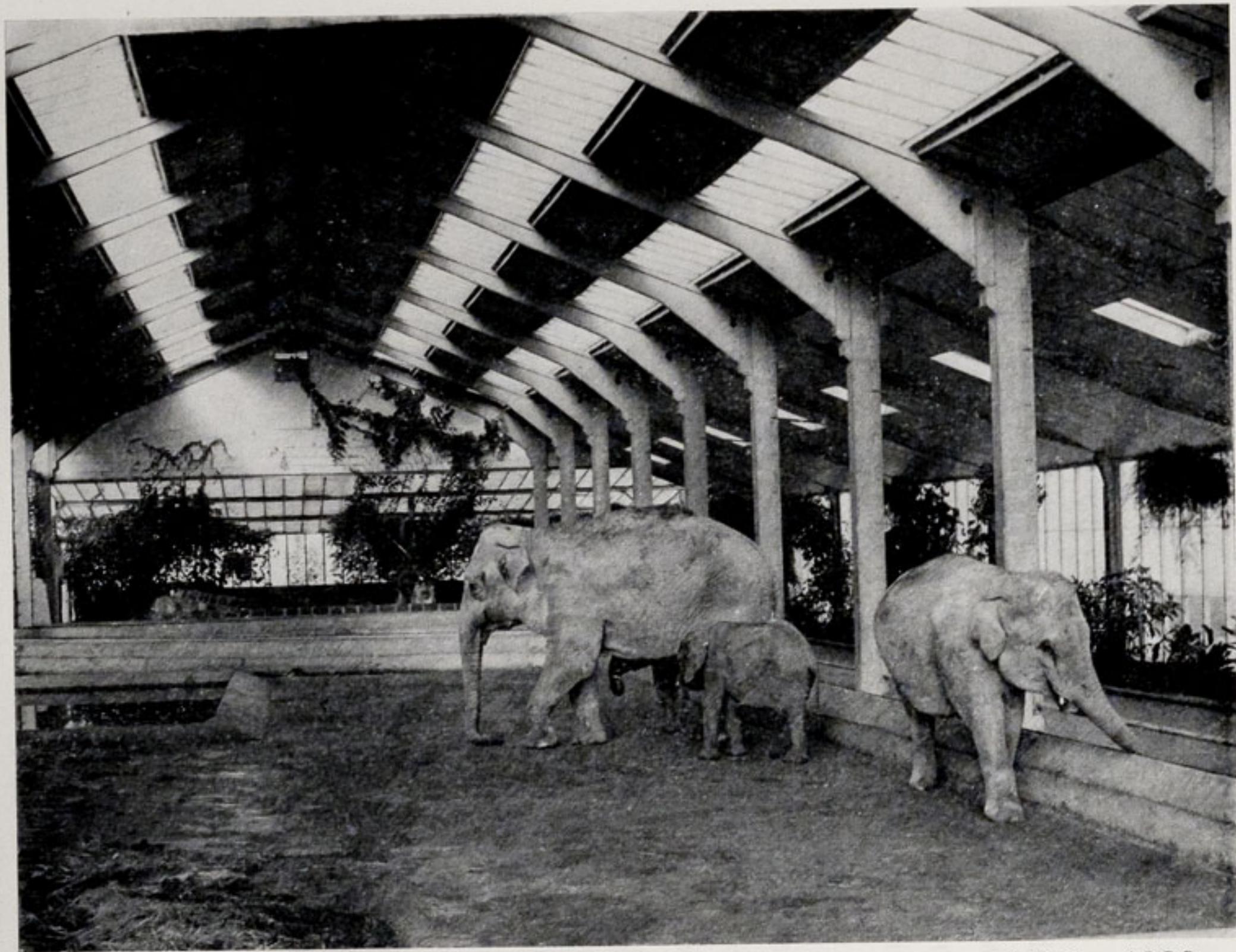


K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

GREAT EAGLE OWL

The Pachyderm House at Chester Zoo is the largest of its kind in this country and must rank as one of the largest in the World. The Hippos occupy the section at the far end and the Tapirs the end nearest to the main door; the accommodation for each species is situated at opposite ends of the building and is in the form of an annexe. In the photograph on page 13 the full extent of the house can be seen; this was taken from the Hippo's wall, looking towards the Tapir dens. At the time of construction during 1961 it was felt that a building to house the largest of all land mammals must be large enough to give a sense of space and allow the animals plenty of exercise.

At most Zoos, the keeper has to enter the enclosure whilst the Elephants are still in it. Some of these animals can prove very dangerous and so we decided to ensure our Elephants could be separated from their keepers in the event of having a rogue animal; fortunately all our Elephants are of rather pleasant dispositions and this precaution has not so far been required. The indoor accommodation is divided into two sections by a thick beam which can be moved to and fro by the keeper but not by the Elephants. The acre-large outside enclosure is reached by the opening of a huge metal door, which can be locked into position in the keeper's service passage. Large baths are incorporated in the indoor and outdoor enclosures and all the Elephants like to splash about except "Jumbolino" who seems rather reluctant to use the water. The Elephants are separated from the public by means of a ditch both in the outside enclosure and indoors and thus a completely unimpaired view of the animals can be obtained. There is a rose border in front of the outside ditch which is a blaze of colour during the summer. The inside of the Pachyderm House is planted profusely with a wide variety of tropical vegetation and just inside the main door is a bed of especially bright and sweet smelling plants. Apart from making the building far more attractive and natural in appearance the plants also disguise the natural odour of the Elephants. Although the concrete is hosed and scrubbed each day there is still some smell but this is effectively masked by the more pleasant



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

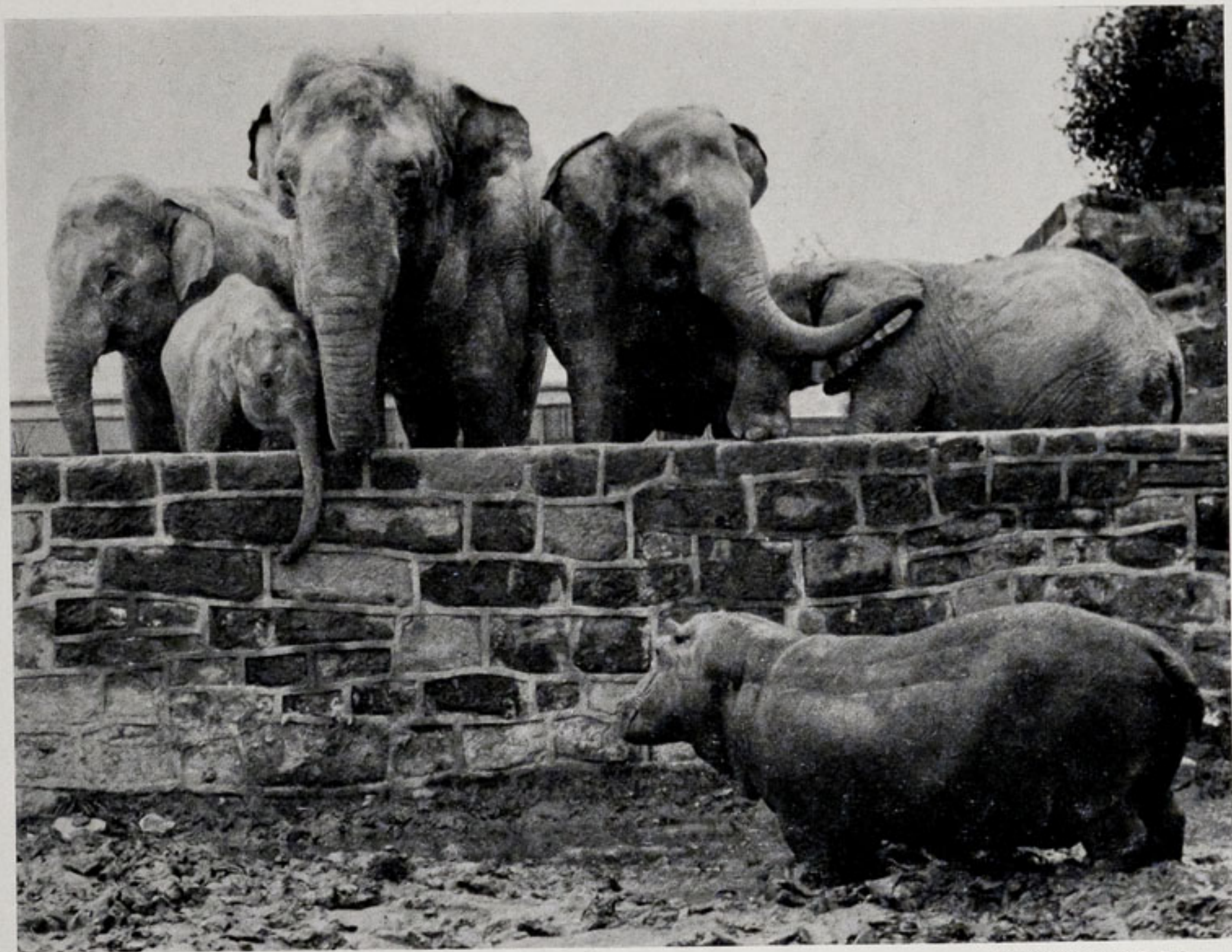
INTERIOR VIEW OF PACHYDERM HOUSE

odours of the plants. An amusing incident occurred some time ago as the Director was leaving the Pachyderm House; he held the door open for two ladies and heard one remark to the other "I never knew Elephants smelt like this!" Elephants are fairly hardy animals but the building is centrally heated by oil-fired ducted air heating.

All the Elephants seem on friendly terms with our three Hippos. When outside, the Elephants can reach the Hippos over the wall which divides the two enclosures. As can be seen in the photograph on page 15 there is no animosity on the part of the Hippos who treat the whole affair as a game.

We have five Elephants at the Zoo. "Barbar" an Indian is the largest of them all. She has been at the Zoo since 1949, is now 34 years old and although she has not been weighed, we estimate her weight to be between 3 and 4 tons. Despite being far larger than our other Elephants, "Barbar" is definitely the most friendly. She has the distinction of having her nails trimmed from time to time, but the other animals seem to wear down their nails naturally. "Barbar" is also our musical Elephant as she plays the mouth organ by blowing through it with her trunk. She can often be seen asleep during the day. Elephants are not usually to be found sleeping and normally sleep for only a few hours at night. Some Elephants especially the older ones do not lie down to sleep, but rest against a wall or other solid object. "Barbar" is in perfect health and we can offer no explanation for this behaviour.

"Sheba" an Indian female, is the second largest Elephant in the collection. She is about eleven years old, arrived during 1965 and is very good at balancing. She will walk along the top of the wall which separates the Hippos and Elephants and balances along the metal bar which is about four inches wide and six feet from the ground. "Sheba" is thought by her keepers to be the most intelligent Elephant, and is also one of the cleanest, taking a bath most days.



ELEPHANTS AND HIPPO

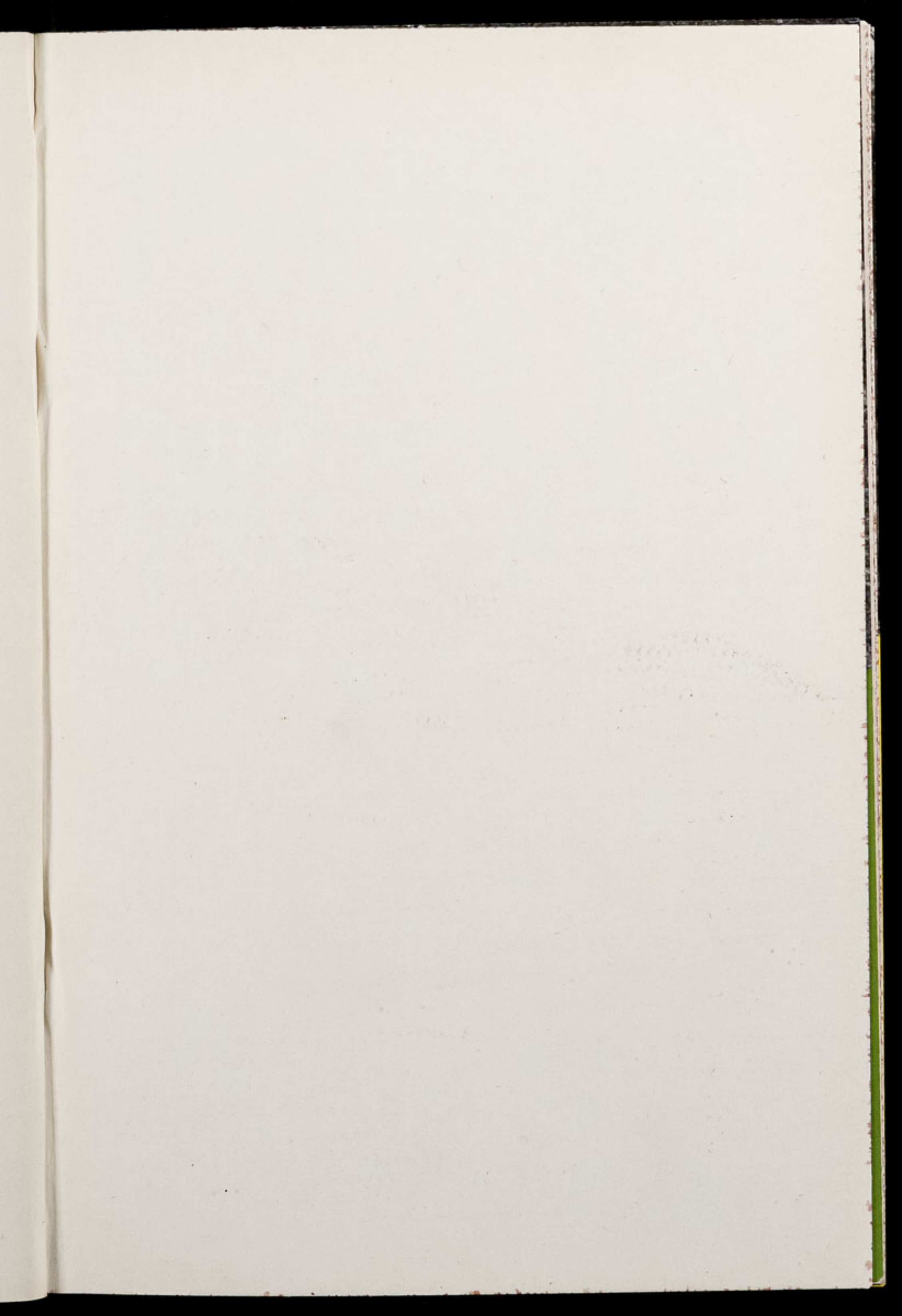
K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

"Judy" is only slightly smaller than "Sheba" and would probably be about the same weight as she is a heavier-built animal. She is also about the same age as "Sheba" but arrived at the Zoo during 1961 when she was four years old. "Judy" does not like children inside the house, particularly if they run around and make a great deal of noise. She will steal any shopping bags, hats, etc., which come within easy reach of her extremely agile trunk. "Judy" and "Barbar" are the only two Elephants which survived the outbreak of Anthrax in 1964.

"Jumbolino" is our only African Elephant and can be distinguished at once from the others by his huge ears, a characteristic feature of this species. As mentioned previously "Jumbolino" does not like the water and has to be coaxed into his bath. He is five years old and arrived at the Zoo during 1964. Eventually he will become the largest of all our Elephants and could exceed "Barbar's" weight by well over a ton.

"Nobby" is the smallest of our Elephants; he is $4\frac{1}{2}$ years old and arrived at the Zoo during 1965. "Nobby" is even more adept at balancing than "Sheba".

First thing in the morning all the Elephants are given a loaf of bread and if the weather is fine they go outside where they receive hay, corn and at this time of the year kale stumps; the Hippos eat the kale leaves. The Elephants remain out of doors most of the day. Many people ask us how much an Elephant eats; this question is not quite so easy to answer as one would imagine as Elephants vary a great deal in their food consumption. To give a rough idea, a large Elephant can eat $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of hay and lucerne, 5 loaves of bread, 6lbs. of mixed corn and large quantities of mown grass, kale, mangolds, swedes, etc., when available.





Printed in England by
G. R. Griffith Ltd.
Castle Printing Works
Chester
