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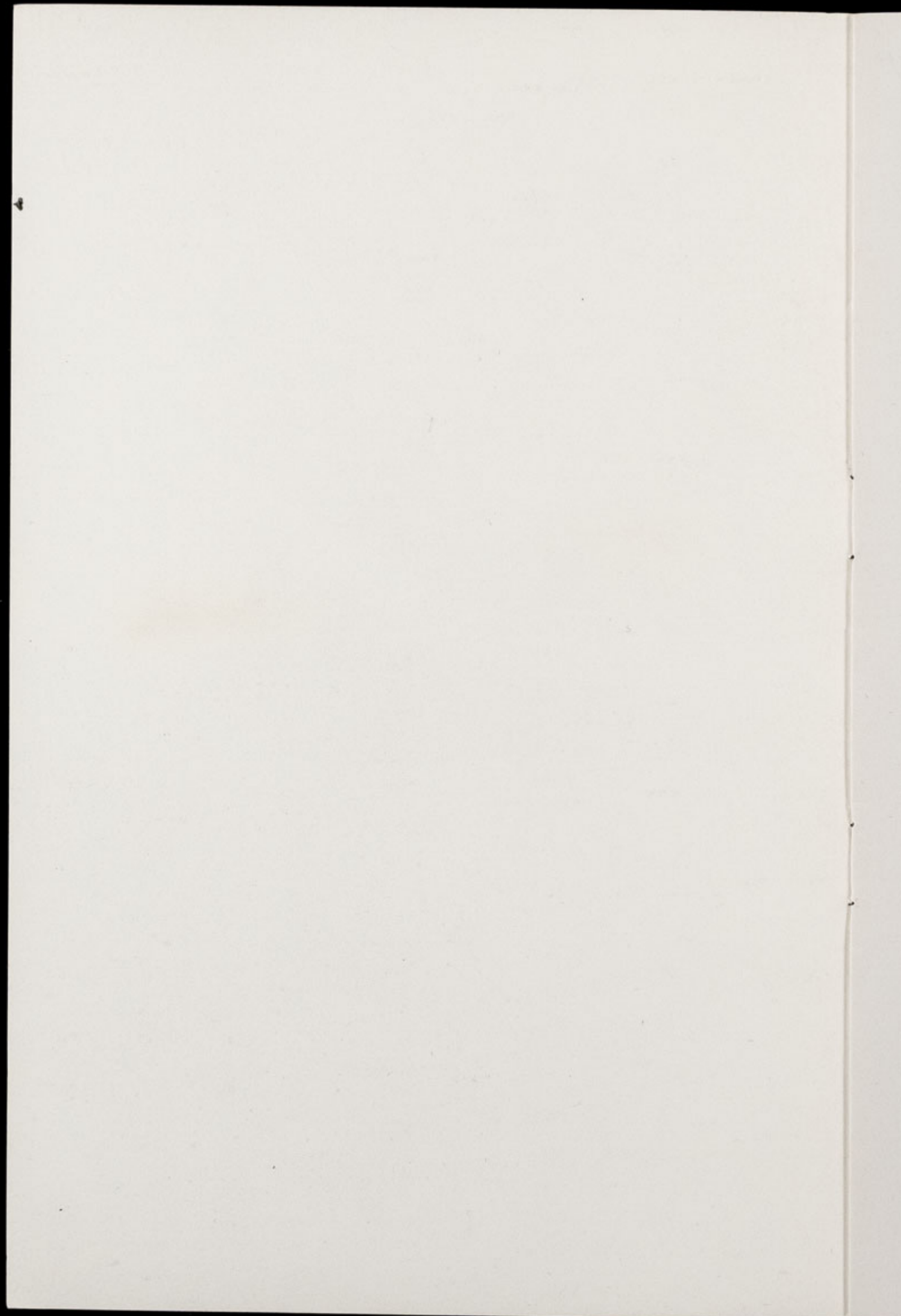
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

January 1974

Price 6p



The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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COVER: Female Black Rhinoceros calf "Linda" with her mother;
see page two

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION — ONE POUND AND FIVE PENCE POSTAGE PAID

TELEPHONE :: CHESTER 20106/7/8

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Pride of place on this month's cover goes to Linda, the little female Black Rhinoceros calf (*Diceros bicornis*) which was born at Chester Zoo on the 30th November. Up to the time of writing, poor weather has delayed Linda's first excursion out of doors but visitors can observe her quite clearly with her mother, Susie, in their enclosure in the Rhinoceros House, No. 105. We are pleased to report that her progress is excellent and she is starting to take an interest in solid food.

MAMMAL BIRTHS

During the past few weeks the following mammals have been born:

- 1 Sykes x Moloney's Monkey (*Cercopithecus a. albogularis* x
Cercopithecus a. moloneyi)
- 1 Alpaca (*Lama pacos*)
- 1 Red Lechwe (*Kobus leche*)
- 1 Arabian Gazelle (*Gazella arabica*)
- 1 Highland calf (*Bos taurus*)

The baby monkey is the second cross between these two races of Central African guenon and its parents are the same male Sykes and female Moloney's Monkeys which produced the first youngster in August 1971. The earlier baby was a male and it now lives in another enclosure in the Monkey House with a group of juveniles of various species. The latest baby is also a male and already it is fairly agile. Its mother was presented to the zoo in February 1967 and originated from Zambia. We were very pleased to accept this female, as the Moloney's Monkey is an uncommon exhibit in collections. The male Sykes Monkey has lived here since September 1967.

Like the other two Alpacas bred in 1973, the latest baby is deep brown in colour. Several weeks ago the whole group of Alpacas was moved to one of the new enclosures on site No. 101 and it was soon after that the baby was produced. It has been sexed as a male and gives every indication that it is thriving.

With the birth of another fawn, the number of Arabian Gazelles in the collection has crept up to thirteen, a situation which is most encouraging. In the past there have been numerous setbacks in rearing these delicate little animals but it is hoped that at last the group is establishing itself. Visitors will not be able to see the fawn until the spring, as at present the Arabian Gazelles are in their winter quarters.

ECHIDNAS AND PIGEONS

A large section of last month's issue was devoted to the arrival of a consignment of mammals and birds from Australia. All the specimens have settled in and we are now able to publish photographs of some of them.

In the illustration below is the pair of Crested Pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) which is on exhibition in one of the upper aviaries of the Tropical House. This is a medium-sized pigeon with an adult length



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

CRESTED PIGEONS (*Ocyphaps lophotes*)

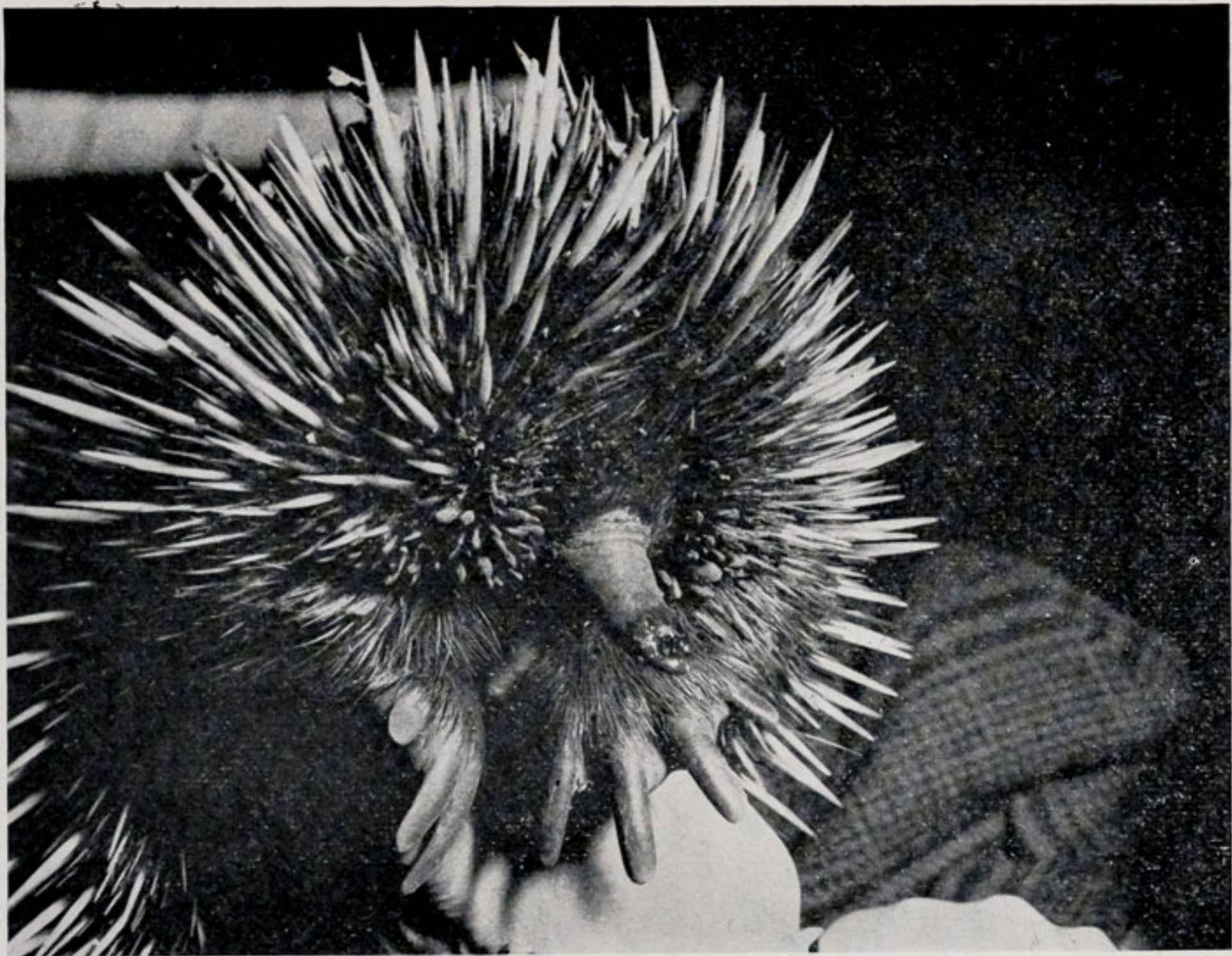


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SQUATTER PIGEON (*Geophaps scripta*)

of approximately twelve inches and it has a fairly wide distribution in Australia. Generally its colour is light grey with a pinkish tinge on the back of the neck and sides of the breast. The feathers of the pointed crest are black and the circles around the eyes are pinkish red in the male and crimson in the female. There are few other differences in appearance between the sexes. The wings have black bars interspaced with white and bear a bronzy green sheen. The latter is also apparent on the black tail.

The bird in the photograph above is one of the pair of Squatter Pigeons (*Geophaps scripta*), accommodated in the same aviary as the Crested Pigeons. Length for this species is given as twelve and a half inches and its range is confined to Queensland and New South Wales. On its back and wings the colouration is chiefly deep brown with paler margins to the wing feathers. The Squatter Pigeon's sides and under wing coverts are white and the plumage on its breast and upper abdomen is bluish-grey. The lower abdomen is buff and the markings on the face, black and white. From its colour combination it



ECHIDNA (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*)

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

is not surprising that Partridge Pigeon is another name used for this bird.

The animal being held in the photograph on page five is an Echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) and incidentally to lift an Echidna without being stabbed by those long spines needs a lot of experience! This is one of a pair of Echidnas or Spiny Anteaters which was received from Australia and is now living in a roomy enclosure in the Tropical House. Features to note from the photograph are the heavily clawed feet, the long pointed snout with the nostrils at the end and the white-tipped spines. Some of the coarse fur on the head is also visible but the tiny eyes are hidden. One of the Echidnas is particularly active during the day, so visitors stand a good chance of seeing it shuffling about the enclosure and probing with its long snout into the soft sand or leaves.

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPERATE BIRD HOUSE

One of the forthcoming building projects is the reconstruction of the Temperate Bird House, No. 54. This house was erected as a temporary measure a few years ago when accommodation for a number of birds was required urgently. It was always our intention to build a more permanent structure on this site. The design of the new house is still in the early stages but we will let readers have details as soon as the plans are finalised.

AQUARIUM NEWS

Since the last report a number of Arulius Barbs (*Barbus arulius*) has been bred. The eggs were laid amongst vegetation on the bottom of the tank and shortly after hatching the fry were caught up and transferred to nursery tanks. Some of the young had already reached half an inch long by the time they were one week old. The Arulius Barb lives wild in Malaya and, with an adult length of five inches, it is one of the larger members of its family. It is a peaceful

species but is seen in Aquariums less frequently than some of the other Barbs.

The Common Garfishes (*Xenetodon cancila*) are continuing to breed and a high percentage of the young is surviving. If visitors look carefully into the Common Garfish tank, they may be lucky enough to observe some of the eggs before they are removed by the Aquarium keeper. Usually they can be found either floating near the surface or attached to vegetation.

Two young Black Sharks (*Morulus chrysophekadion*) were among the latest acquisitions for this section. The Black species is related to the Red-tailed Black and Red-finned Black Sharks also exhibited in this Aquarium, but it grows to eighteen inches or more, almost three times the length of the other forms. The home of the Black Shark is Thailand and it is a harmless plant and algae eater. Young fishes are jet black but this colour fades to a brownish black as maturity is reached. The Black Sharks have been introduced to a tank containing Neon Tetra.

Other arrivals are several fishes described as Marbled Gouramies which visitors can see in the large tank accommodating the Metynnis and Tin Foil Barbs. The new Gouramies are very similar in shape to the Giant Gouramies (*Osphronemus gourami*) but most of them lack the stripes of the Giant species and instead have mottled bodies. However we believe the Marbled Gourami is a variety of the larger species.

Recently the Freshwater Sting Ray (illustrated in the September 1973 issue) was transferred to a larger tank where it joined a single Arowana. Initially the Arowana was rather wary of its new companion but slowly it is adjusting to the presence of the Sting Ray. It is extremely unlikely that the Sting Ray would cause any harm to the other fish and in the more spacious surroundings it will have room to grow. The transfer of the Sting Ray has proved beneficial in one way—the Arowana is now eating more. At one time it would accept only locusts but since the arrival of the Ray it has progressed to small fishes. Perhaps the possibility of competition for food has sharpened its appetite.

CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

TO LECTURE HALL
(PRIVATE)

1. SOUTH ENTRANCE
2. Peacock Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Lesser Pandas
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, FIRST AID, TOILETS, MOTHER AND BABY ROOM
9. CAFETERIA
10. Picnic Lawn
11. Bears
12. Animal Enclosure
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. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP
21. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
22. TOILETS
23. Tuatara Exhibit
24. Peccaries
25. Waterbus Halt
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. Waterbus Halt
36. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES
37. CHIMPANZEEES
38. Floribunda Rose Garden
39. Mammal House
40. Gibbon Island

41. H.T. Rose Garden
42. Aviaries
43. Flamingoes
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Waterfowl Enclosure
46. Capybara and Waterfowl
47. Penguins
48. Sealions
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Tigers
52. Waterfowl Enclosure
53. Anteaters
54. BIRD HOUSE
55. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT
56. Ape Nursery
57. TOILETS
58. Lions
59. SOUVENIR SHOP
60. TOILETS
61. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT
62. G.P.O. Telephone
63. Gibbon Pen
64. Animal Enclosure
65. Cheetahs
66. Ornamental Rock Garden
67. Malayan Bears
68. Animal Enclosure
69. Aviary
70. Wallabies
71. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE AND KIOSK
72. Waterbus Halt

73. Fountain Flower Gardens
74. Rose Garden
75. Red Lechwe
76. Red Lechwe
77. Deer or Antelope Enclosure
78. Waterbus Halt
79. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
80. Kamchatka Bears
81. ELEPHANTS
82. Hippos
83. Tapirs
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Ankole Cattle
87. Gazelle Paddocks
88. Storks and Ostriches
89. Baboon Pens
90. Cat House
91. Lions and Tigers
92. Antelope Enclosure
93. Antelope Enclosure
94. Antelope Enclosure
95. Zebra Enclosure
96. MONKEY HOUSE
97. Waterfowl Enclosure
98. Wallabies and Waterfowl
99. Cranes and Waterfowl
100. Llamas and Alpacas

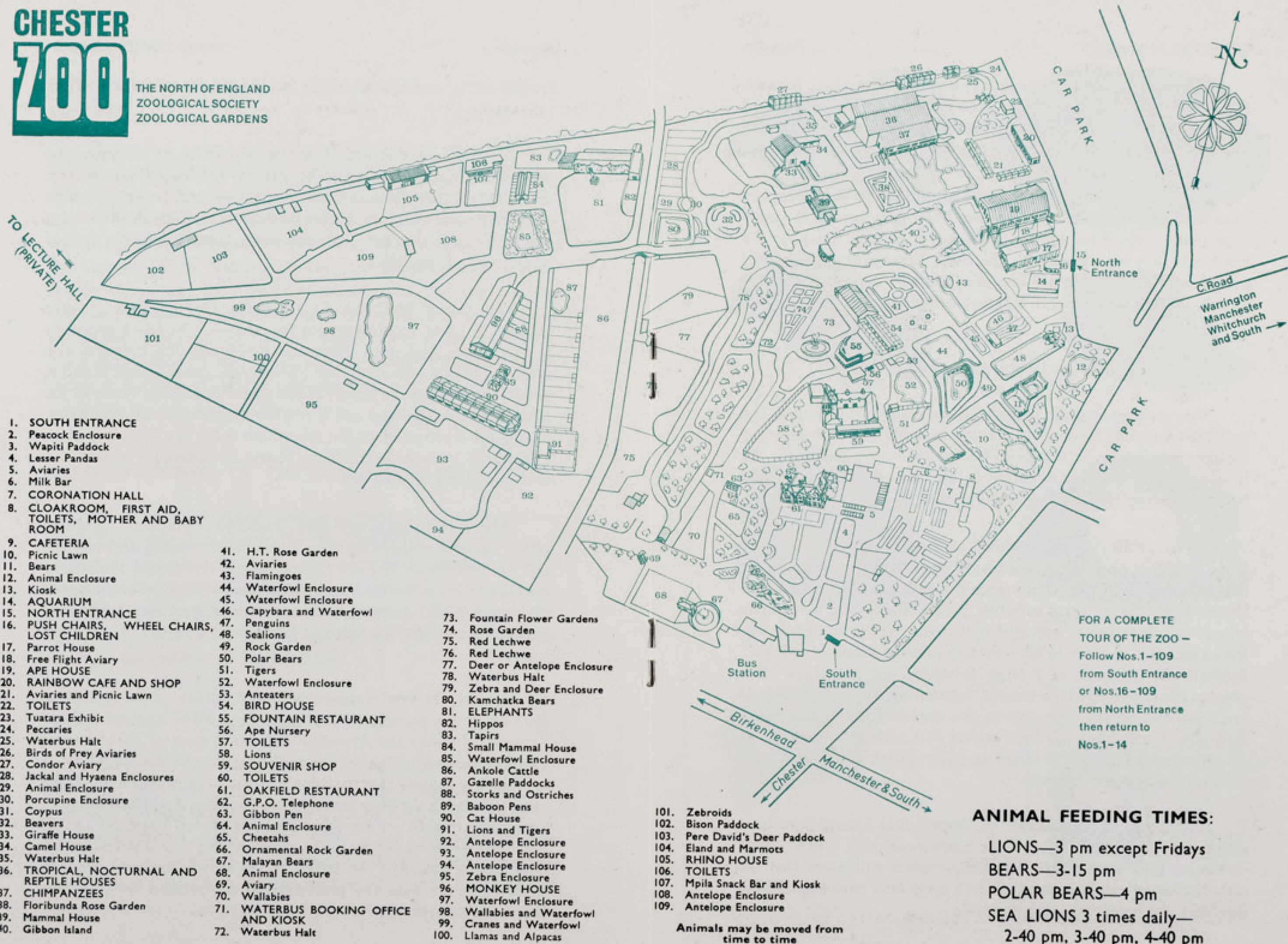
101. Zebroids
102. Bison Paddock
103. Pere David's Deer Paddock
104. Eland and Marmots
105. RHINO HOUSE
106. TOILETS
107. Mpila Snack Bar and Kiosk
108. Antelope Enclosure
109. Antelope Enclosure

Animals may be moved from time to time

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES:

LIONS—3 pm except Fridays
BEARS—3-15 pm
POLAR BEARS—4 pm
SEA LIONS 3 times daily—
2-40 pm, 3-40 pm, 4-40 pm

FOR A COMPLETE
TOUR OF THE ZOO —
Follow Nos.1-109
from South Entrance
or Nos.16-109
from North Entrance
then return to
Nos.1-14



Into the tank which the Sting Ray has vacated we have released the two Banded Cichlids or Poor Man's Discus (*Cichlasoma severum*) which arrived here a few months ago. Both these fishes are developing into fine specimens and will make a good exhibit in this tank.

The three Pacus (*Colossoma sp.*) mentioned in the December issue have now been put on exhibition. Their new home is the same large tank in which the Marbled Gouramies are now living. In the few weeks they have been here, the Pacus have grown appreciably and their body colours are becoming darker. As we stated last month, these fishes can reach lengths of over two feet.

DEATH OF A KAMCHATKA BEAR

Notices requesting the public's co-operation in not feeding the animals are posted throughout the zoo grounds and each month a similar plea appears on the inside back cover of the *Zoo News*. We would also like to draw attention to the fact that it is as equally harmful to drop other objects into enclosures.

A year or two ago a bear died as a result of a foreign body being lodged in its stomach. Within the past few weeks another bear has been lost. In this latest instance a twelve year old male Kamchatka Bear was set upon suddenly by his fellows and so severely injured that it had to be humanely destroyed. At the autopsy it was found that the contents of his stomach included pieces of a P.V.C. football, the remnants of a large polythene bag and three other objects, the source of which was not determined. Most of the objects are illustrated on the right and to give readers some indication of their size, a matchbox has been shown as a scale. The presence of such foreign bodies had resulted in many gastric ulcers and must have caused extreme discomfort.

In the case of the football we suspect that it may have been dropped in deliberately to see if the bears would play with it, which of course they would not. We think readers will agree that the introduction of any foreign object into an animal enclosure is both senseless and potentially very harmful.

Page Eleven

"CHESTER ZOO NEWS"



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

OBJECTS REMOVED FROM STOMACH OF KAMACHTKA BEAR (Matchbox shown as scale)

SOME INTERESTING PLANTS AT CHESTER ZOO

On visits to the zoo at this time of year the weather can often become squally quite suddenly and then it is pleasant to escape from the cold into the Tropical House or one of the animal houses. Once inside, visitors can always be sure of plenty to see, from the botanical as well as the zoological aspect. To aid their enjoyment we are including below comments on some of the interesting plants which can be found in these buildings.

Allamanda hendersonii is a tropical, evergreen climbing plant from Brazil which was introduced to this country in the late eighteenth century. It is planted in the trough on the top walk of the Tropical House, the growths being trained on wires up to the roof and on over the public pathway. It is one of the best climbing plants, with pale green leaves and yellow trumpet flowers which are abundant throughout the summer months.

Planted in the same trough as *Allamanda hendersonii* and grown in a similar manner is *Aristolochia elegans*, another tropical climber and native of Brazil. This plant makes only thin growth and needs little pruning. It has interesting flowers of green, white and red, each shaped like a Dutchman's pipe. In fact one of the hardy varieties of this species, named *durior*, is known as the Dutchman's Pipe Plant, so closely do its flowers resemble the pipes.

Among our collection of *Ficus* we have the variety *bengalensis*, a native of India and other tropical areas of the East. This is a tree which throws out roots from its branches. In its natural habitat these aerial roots hang down until they reach the ground where they take root themselves and form many extra trunks. In this way *Ficus bengalensis*, known as the Banyan Tree, can cover a large area. Visitors to the Tropical House will find specimens of this *Ficus* growing against the high wall above the reptile enclosures.

The most impressive plant in the Tropical House must be *Musa* (banana) *paradisica* which grows to a height of thirty feet. In the British Isles there are few botanical establishments with buildings high enough to accommodate this banana. It is a herbaceous plant and throws up thick growths, on the top of which are giant, leathery leaves, five to six feet in length. From the tops of these growths also come the fruits which are left for the birds to enjoy when ripe. Each growth takes three years to mature and produce fruit from a sucker. After fruiting the growth is finished and eventually rots off but here we cut off the growths and they are fed to the Gorillas who thoroughly enjoy them. The variety *Musa nana* from Bermuda and the Canary Islands is also grown here, in tubs in the greenhouses, and is introduced to the Tropical House when in fruit. *Musa nana* reaches only five to six feet high but the fruit is edible and quite delicious.

Other plants which can be seen on the top walk of the Tropical House include *Clerodendron thomsoniae* and *splendens*. Originating from tropical Africa, both are among the best of tropical climbers, producing many flowers which are long-lasting. The variety *thomsoniae* has masses of floral bracts made up of individual flowers with white petals and crimson centres. *Clerodendron splendens* is similar but has broader leaves and wholly scarlet flowers.

Among the many varieties of *Cissus*, we exhibit *discolor*, a native of Java and a striking climber which has variegated dark green leaves mottled with white and coral stems. We have to propagate this plant each year as when it gets older it loses all its leaves during the winter. In addition it is very slow in making new growth and sometimes does not manage to do so before the end of the summer. Consequently we usually have to plant young specimens of *Cissus discolor* each spring, though as it is such a quick growing variety, it soon covers its allotted space.

Another *Cissus*, acquired only last year, is *gongylodes* which comes from Brazil. This is an interesting plant with green and red rope-like branches and aerial roots which hang down like streamers. Both varieties of *Cissus* can be located on the upper walk of the Tropical House.



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

AFRICAN HEMP TREE (*Sparmania africana*) GROWING
IN THE RHINOCEROS HOUSE

Hoya carnososa is another climber, this time from China, and is more commonly known as either the Honey Plant or the Wax Flower. It has clusters of pink and white wax-like flowers with a blob of nectar on each flower, hence the name Honey Plant. The variety *Hoya bella*, a native of Burma, is shown here also but this is suitable only for growing in hanging baskets.

Around the pool with the fountain in the Tropical House we have planted *Hedychiums*. The varieties exhibited are *flavum* which has yellow and orange flowers, *gardnerianum* with lemon yellow and *greenii* with red flowers. These all belong to the Ginger family and originate from the Himalayas. A very strong scent is a characteristic of the flowers which are present on long spikes and look most attractive. The *Hedychiums* love having a plentiful supply of water to their roots and this is provided with the constant overflow from the pool.

A native of the West Indies, *Xanthosoma violacium*, is also growing around this pool. The plant has large green leaves with purplish veins but insignificant lily-like flowers. *Xanthosoma violacium* is another plant which thrives when it has an abundant source of water.

So far we have mentioned just those species which can be found in the Tropical House but interesting plants may be seen in other animal houses as well. In the Rhinoceros House, *Sparmania africana* can be seen growing in the dividing walls between the enclosures (see left). More commonly known as the African Hemp Tree, it is an evergreen shrub reaching between ten and fifteen feet in height and the same in width. It has attractive large, light green leaves and clusters of white flowers with yellow centres. Each dividing wall consists of two walls built approximately two feet apart with the central space filled with soil. The African Hemp Tree is an ideal subject for the purpose of creating a tropical appearance in an animal house but now it is causing some problems in the Rhino quarters, as in a few places the strength of the roots is splitting the walls.

We have three fine specimen trees of *Datura suaveolens*, one at each end of the Monkey House and the third in the Elephant House. This species comes originally from Mexico and attains a height of eighteen feet or more. It is covered spasmodically with large, trumpet-like flowers throughout the summer months and when in full flower, is one of the most spectacular of trees. The variety *Datura sanguinea* from Peru is also planted in the Elephant House but is not as strong growing as *suaveolens*. It has orange flowers and is sometimes known as *brugmansia*.

SUBSCRIPTION FORMS

New readers of the CHESTER ZOO NEWS who would like to receive the magazine regularly may be interested to know that subscription forms can be obtained from the souvenir shop. An annual subscription (12 issues) costs £1.05, postage paid, which can either be handed over the counter at the shop or posted with the completed form to the Director-Secretary, Chester Zoo, Chester.



The following notice is displayed on several boards in the grounds

Please comply with it at all times.

FEEDING OF ANIMALS AND BIRDS

IT IS AN OFFENCE for any member of the public to offer food of any description to any Animal or Bird in Chester Zoo.

This regulation is made for the sake of the health of the Animals and Birds. Since the NO FEEDING rule was introduced, the number of deaths has dropped appreciably and sickness, due to wrong feeding has been virtually eliminated.

What you may be offering to an animal may only be a sweet or an inoffensive piece of bread, but it can mean a death sentence for the animal. For example, a cough drop, which may relieve your cough, can cause instant death to many Animals and Birds in the Zoo.

You must not lose sight of the fact that you are only one of over a million visitors who visit the Zoo annually. If for instance an elephant had one bun from only one tenth of a day's visitors during the summer, it would eat between three and four thousand. You can guess the result.

We realise what a temptation it is for visitors, particularly children, to feed our Animals and Birds and this is why we invite members of the public to be present at the official feeding times.

This is a polite warning to you, asking you not to feed the animals. If you ignore it, the Keepers are authorised to ask you to leave the Gardens.

If you really love Animals and Birds, you will appreciate the wisdom of the ruling — No Feeding by members of the public.

PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP OUR COLLECTION OF ANIMALS NOT ONLY ALIVE BUT IN FIRST CLASS CONDITION.

