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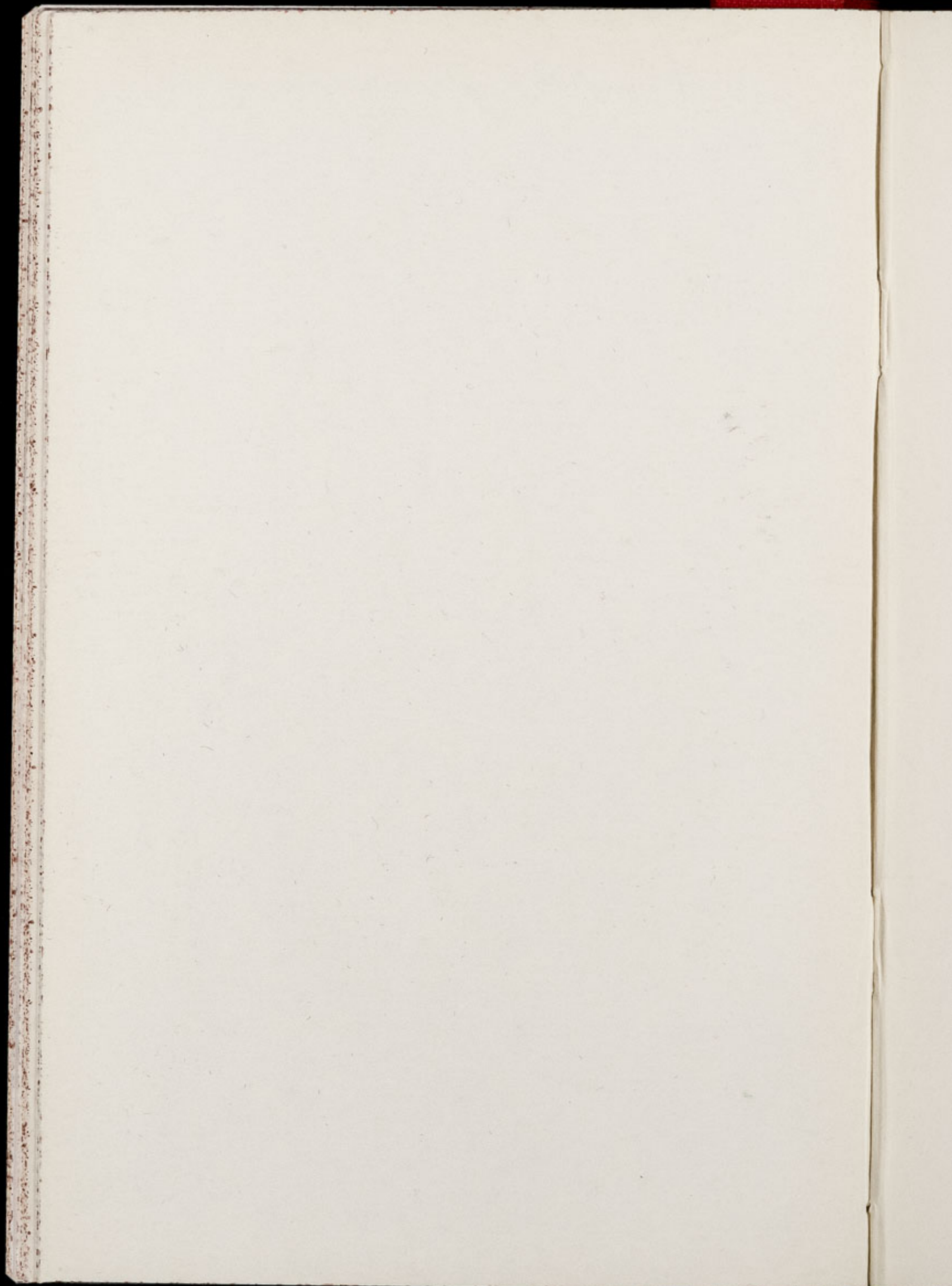
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

March 1969

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. News from Various Sections.
<i>page four</i>	New Ape House.
<i>page eight/nine</i>	Zoo Guide.
<i>page ten</i>	Polar Bears on Ice.
<i>page twelve</i>	Giant Anteaters.
<i>page fourteen</i>	Aquarium News.
<i>page fifteen</i>	Publication of Zoo Book.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

<i>page three</i>	Baby Giraffe 'Richie'.
<i>page five</i>	Exterior of new Ape House.
<i>page seven</i>	Orang-Utan.
<i>page eleven</i>	Polar Bears.
<i>page thirteen</i>	Giant Anteaters.
<i>page sixteen</i>	G. S. Mottershead and June Johns.

COVER: 'Mukisi', our male Mountain Gorilla.

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ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

A young male Giraffe named 'Richie' was born during the past month. When the birth occurred the Giraffe House was closed for a few days to allow the baby time to settle down.

Giraffe babies are fairly large at birth and we estimate that 'Richie' was almost 6 feet tall but he still has a long way to go before reaching the 15 feet height of mother Margaret or 18 feet of father George.

'Richie' will be confined to the interior of the Giraffe House for the next few weeks but as soon as the warm weather arrives he will be allowed outside into the moated Giraffe paddock.

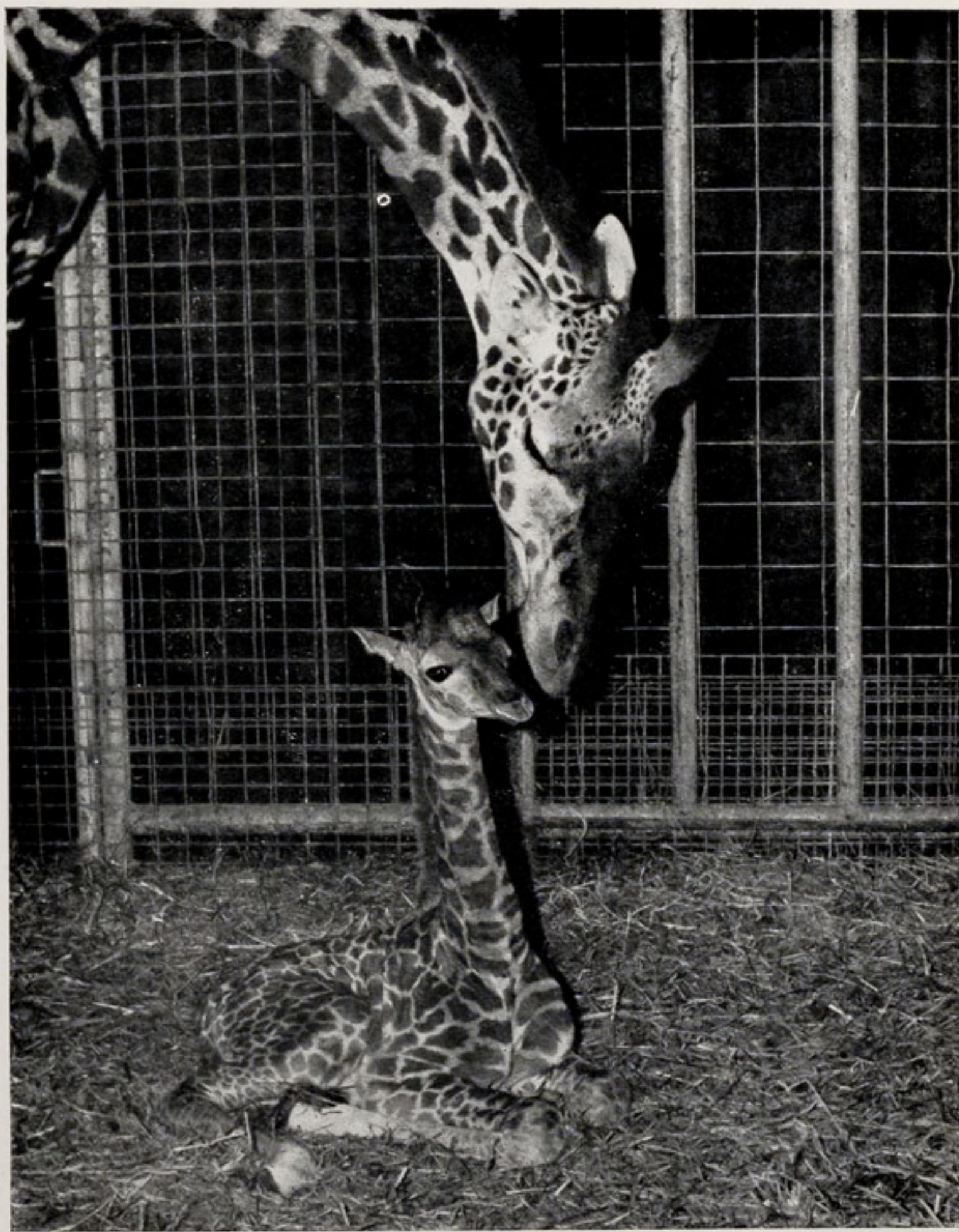
We have seven Giraffes on show at the Zoo, 2 adult males, 3 breeding females and 2 youngsters. Eventually 'Richie' will have to be found a home in another Zoo as male Giraffes become very aggressive towards each other.

A young female Nilgai has arrived from the Edinburgh Zoo as a mate for our two males which arrived during July 1968. As a temporary measure she has been accommodated at the rear of the Zebra House but during the spring will be transferred to the Nilgai paddock.

NEWS FROM VARIOUS SECTIONS

At the time of going to press 'Noelle' our Mountain Gorilla has not presented us with a youngster but staff are expecting the birth any day now. 'Mukisi', her mate, is pictured on this month's cover and judging from his expression is also tired of waiting.

The outside pens of the small Mammal House are being completely overhauled and plate glass windows are being installed.



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

BABY GIRAFFE, "RICHIE"

This will give visitors a much better view of the animals and will also prevent them being bitten by some of the more vicious specimens. Despite warning notices, people still put their fingers through the wire mesh and then wonder why the animal has bitten them!

In last month's Zoo News we mentioned that Otter cubs had been born at the Mammal House. At the time it was difficult to ascertain the number of young due to their secretive habits but now after several weeks we have discovered that unfortunately there is only a single youngster.

At the Bird House, our pair of Kookaburras have two eggs. Last year for the first time these birds reared two youngsters, which can be seen in an adjoining aviary. We are hopeful of more success with this species which has only rarely been bred in this country.

Regular visitors to the Zoo will have noticed some movement of animals in our Cat House. Young have been separated from parent animals and adults housed together for mating. Male cats will very often attack and kill their off-spring so when the female is seen to be pregnant they are separated and the female is provided with a darkened breeding den with a good bed of straw.

NEW APE HOUSE

At the time of writing the new Ape House close to the North Entrance is almost completed and by the time this magazine is published several animals should be in residence.

The building measures 80ft. by 106ft., and the interior is divided by smooth sided walls into three exercise areas. These enclosures are viewed by looking down through plate glass windows and underneath this public walkway are the sleeping dens and kitchen.



EXTERIOR OF NEW APE HOUSE

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

The interior is very light and spacious, large wall and roof windows having been provided. The principal of this latest house is rather different from our existing buildings. Visitors view the animals through plate glass windows; behind the animals is a moat and then a wide border of tropical vegetation. This provides the animals with a completely natural background and the moat protects the plants. There are tropical plants on the dividing walls between the pens which in time will cascade downwards giving a pleasing effect. Another special feature is the climbing frames which are provided in each enclosure. These are made of strong tubular metal formed into attractive modernistic shapes upon which the Orang-Utans especially will spend the majority of their time. The 'behind the scenes' area has also been designed very carefully. The spacious sleeping dens are all interconnecting and incorporate sleeping platforms. Floors 'behind the scenes' are made of asphalt which is non-absorbent and all corners are carefully rounded so as to make cleaning easy and efficient.

Food preparation has not been forgotten and a spacious modern kitchen has been built to cater for all the specialised dietary requirements of our large apes. Hot air heating has been installed to provide warm fresh air.

Our two adult Orang-Utans, 'Jimmy' and 'Paul', have been transferred from their accommodation at the Tropical House in order to provide extra space for our Mountain Gorillas, which is essential due to the imminent birth of a youngster to 'Noelle'. We also have six young Orang-Utans including 'Rajang' who was born at the zoo nine months ago. In the photograph on page 7 can be seen 'Kimbu', another of our Orang-Utans. 'Gogal' and 'Jason', our pair of Lowland Gorillas have also been transferred to the new house; their old accommodation which was designed for



KEEPER DAVID ARMITAGE GIVING VITAMINS TO AN ORANG-UTAN

Gary Talbot

GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

SEA LIONS—2-40, 3-40, 4-40 p.m.

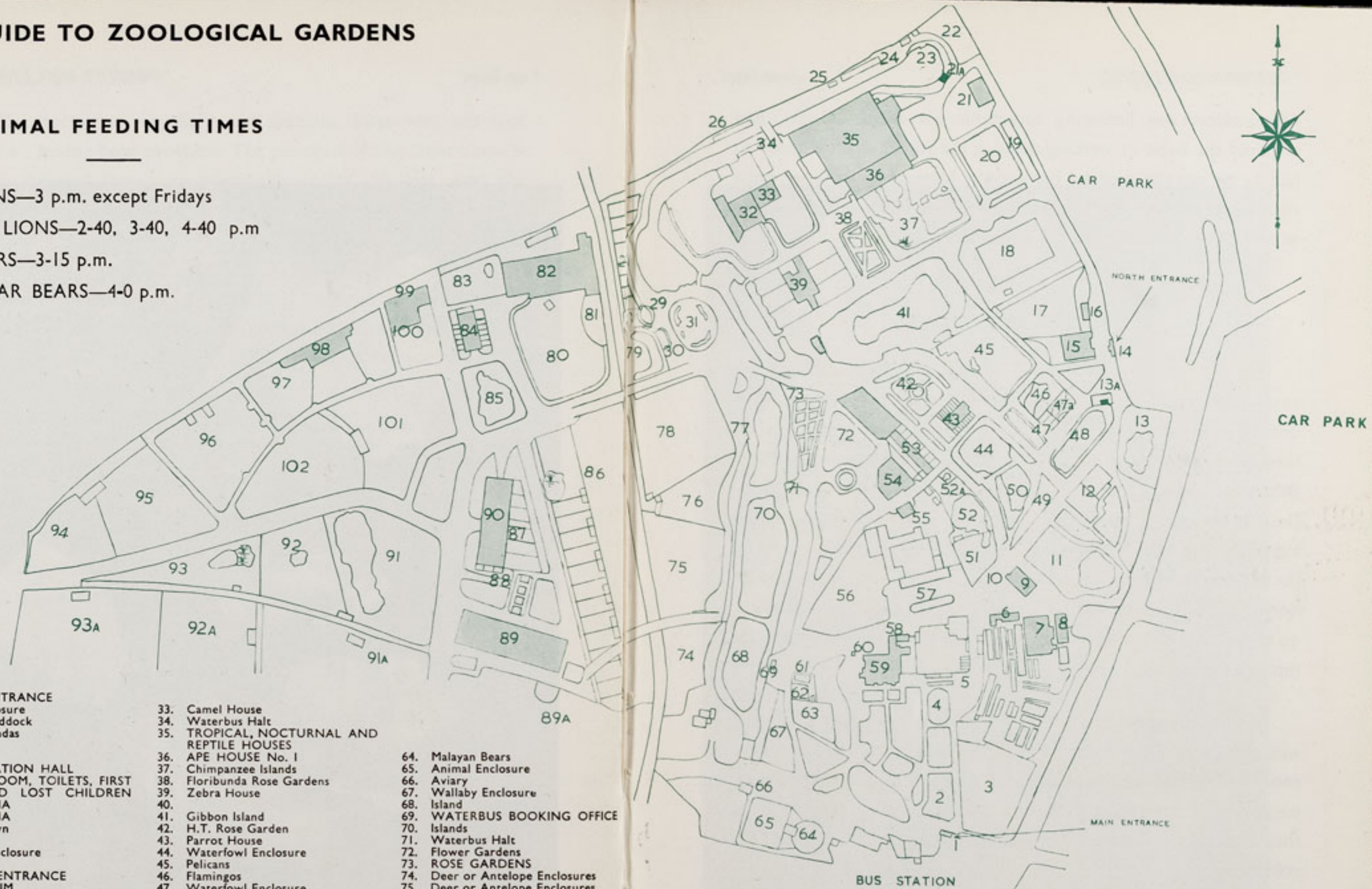
BEARS—3-15 p.m.

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 No. 1 | 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. | 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. 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 | 47a. Penguins and Otters | 79. Kamchatka Bears |
| 16. Push Chairs and Wheel Chairs | 48. Sea Lion Pool | 80. Elephant Paddock |
| 17.† Parrot House | 49. Rock Garden | 81. Hippo Paddock |
| 18. APE HOUSE No. 2 | 50. Polar Bears | 82. PACHYDERM HOUSE |
| 19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP | 51. Tigers | 83. Tapir Enclosure |
| 20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn | 52. Anteaters | 84. Small Mammal House |
| 21. TOILETS | 52a. Penguin Pool | 85. Waterfowl Enclosure |
| 21a. Tuatara House | 53. BIRD HOUSE | 86. Antelope and Cattle |
| 22. Peccaries | 54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT | 87. Stork Enclosures |
| 23. Waterbus Halt | 55. TOILETS | 88. Monkey Enclosures |
| 24. Birds of Prey Aviary | 56. Lions | 89. Cat House |
| 25. Birds of Prey Aviary | 57. NEW ZOO SHOP | 89a. Jaguars |
| 26. Owls | 58. TOILETS | 90. MONKEY HOUSE |
| 27. Jackal and Hyaena Enclosures | 59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT | 91. Cranes and Waterfowl |
| 28. Wolverines | 60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk | 91a. Highland Cattle |
| 29. Porcupines and Raccoons | 61. Animal Enclosure | |
| 30. Coypus | 62. Animal Enclosure | |
| 31. Beavers | 63. Cheetahs | |
| 32. Giraffe House | | |

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



Chimpanzees was becoming unsuitable for them. 'Gogal' had acquired the habit of walking through the rather shallow moat so had to be accompanied by her keeper, Michael Colbourne, when outside. At the new Ape House the moats are much deeper and she will be allowed outside without supervision.

POLAR BEARS ON ICE

During the recent spell of bad weather, we have had to take the usual precautions against the danger of animals escaping due to drifting snow or frozen ponds. The Apes had to be confined when their moats were frozen over but the large water area in the Polar Bear enclosure was a more difficult proposition. Not that the Polar Bears could escape but by standing on the ice they could reach the top of the wall with their mouths. To prevent this the keepers induced the bears to break their own ice each day, thus preventing the formation of thick ice on the pool. This was done by throwing some food on to the ice so that when the bears walked across they simply broke through the surface.

We have found that our Polar Bears tend to be rather lazy and will not go into the water at all during the cold weather unless enticed with food. In the photograph they can be seen playing with pieces of ice and during the recent cold spell we found that once they had taken the plunge they spent many happy hours in the icy cold water.

Polar Bear are indigenous to the Arctic and have to content themselves with much colder conditions than those which prevail in this country. They are also often observed miles out to sea swimming in water cold enough to kill a human being in one or two minutes.



POLAR BEARS

Jack Smith

GIANT ANTEATERS

Of all the animals at the Zoo, the Giant Anteater must appear the most bizarre, with a huge cylindrical nose and enormous curved claws on the fore feet. There are four species of anteaters known to science; the Giant (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) is the best known species in captivity and the commonest in the wild state. All Anteaters are found in Central and South America; the Giant is distributed from British Honduras to Northern Argentina and is found in swampy areas, humid forests, and savannahs.

As the name implies, the Giant Anteater feeds principally on ants, but beetle larvae are also known to be taken. The very powerful front claws are used to tear open the termite mounds and the ants are picked up by the saliva-coated tongue which can be two feet in length but is less than half an inch in diameter. These animals walk on the knuckles of their fore feet so that the digging claws remain extremely sharp and captive specimens can prove rather dangerous towards their keepers.

Anteaters are fairly large, measuring about 6 feet from the tip of the nose to the end of their fan-like tail and they weigh 40-50lbs. They are terrestrial, do not construct burrows but sleep in a secluded position with head between fore-legs and the tail covering the whole body. Usually single animals are seen, except mothers with young, during the daytime in uninhabited areas but they are nocturnal in habited countryside. After a gestation period of 190 days a single youngster is born and is carried on its mother's back. The mother and offspring are said to stay together until the mother becomes pregnant again. At the approach of danger, Anteaters will generally make off as fast as possible but if cornered they will put their powerful claws to good use and even a Jaguar has to be hard pressed to attack.



Mel Grundy, Deva Press Agency, Chester

GIANT ANTEATERS

Of course, it is out of the question to provide these animals with sufficient ants to feed on, but Giant Anteaters do very well in captivity once they have adjusted to our climate and their substitute diet. This consists of meat, milk and eggs mixed with certain vitamins to a porridge-like consistency, upon which these animals thrive. Our male Anteater arrived in April 1965 and his mate in March 1966. Their enclosure is close to the entrance to the Temperate Bird House; it contains a wooden heated shelter, which is glass fronted so that the animals can be observed even when sleeping and a spacious outside paddock. At first their enclosure incorporated the large pool next to our Tiger pen but their presence so disturbed the Tigers that this portion had to be fenced off. Most people find it hard to believe that Anteaters can swim but in fact, they seem to like the water and swim very well indeed.

So far we have been unable to breed Anteaters at Chester Zoo, but a post mortem examination on a female which unfortunately died sometime ago revealed a well developed foetus. Our Anteaters have plenty of chance to produce young as the species is relatively long lived, the record age in captivity being fourteen years.

AQUARIUM NEWS

Many new arrivals have been accommodated in the Aquarium during the past month.

Perhaps the most interesting of these are the Alligator Garfish (*Lepisosteus trichotichus*), a species found in the United States, Mexico and Central America. Garfish can be regarded as living fossils as this group of fish had their heyday in the Mesozoic Period and only seven species are living at the present time.

Red or Rummy-nosed Tetras (*Hemigrammus rhodostomus*) a species from the Lower Amazon also arrived. This is only the second

time this unusual species has been exhibited at Chester Zoo. Unfortunately the intense red colouration of the head seldom seems to develop in captivity.

Another interesting species acquired was the Red-eyed Characin (*Arnoldischthys spilopterus*). This active and peaceful species is found in Tropical West Africa from Lagos to the Niger estuary and as its name implies has reddish coloured eyes.

Siamese Fighting Fish (*Betta splendens*) natives of the Malay Peninsular and Thailand have arrived during the past month. These fish owe their name to the extraordinary truculence of rival males, which in some countries is exploited in public contests. The males are also pugnacious towards the females and this species should not be accommodated in a community tank. Males build a bubble nest in which the females lay several hundred eggs; the males tend these eggs which hatch in 24-30 hours.

There have been other arrivals in the Aquarium too numerous to mention but most of these have been purchased as replacement stock.

Aquarium staff have been busy changing our Reservoir from fresh to salt water. All the metal pipes had to be changed to plastic as the action of salt water on metal pipes can poison the fish. With a large reserve of salt water we hope to increase the marine side of the Aquarium.

PUBLICATION OF ZOO BOOK

'ZOO WITHOUT BARS', the first book ever to be written about Chester Zoo will be published on April 17th by Gollancz. The author, June Johns, first became interested in the Zoo 20 years ago when she was a reporter on the *Daily Mirror* and made frequent visits to cover news events.

Since she and her husband cameraman Jack Smith came to live in Chester 11 years ago, they have been collecting photographs and data for inclusion in the book.

Basically a biography of George Mottershead, Director-Secretary, it deals with the struggles he has had in creating a Zoo designed to give maximum freedom to the animals. From childhood when he first realised that captive animals deserved something better than cramped cages, to manhood when he had to battle



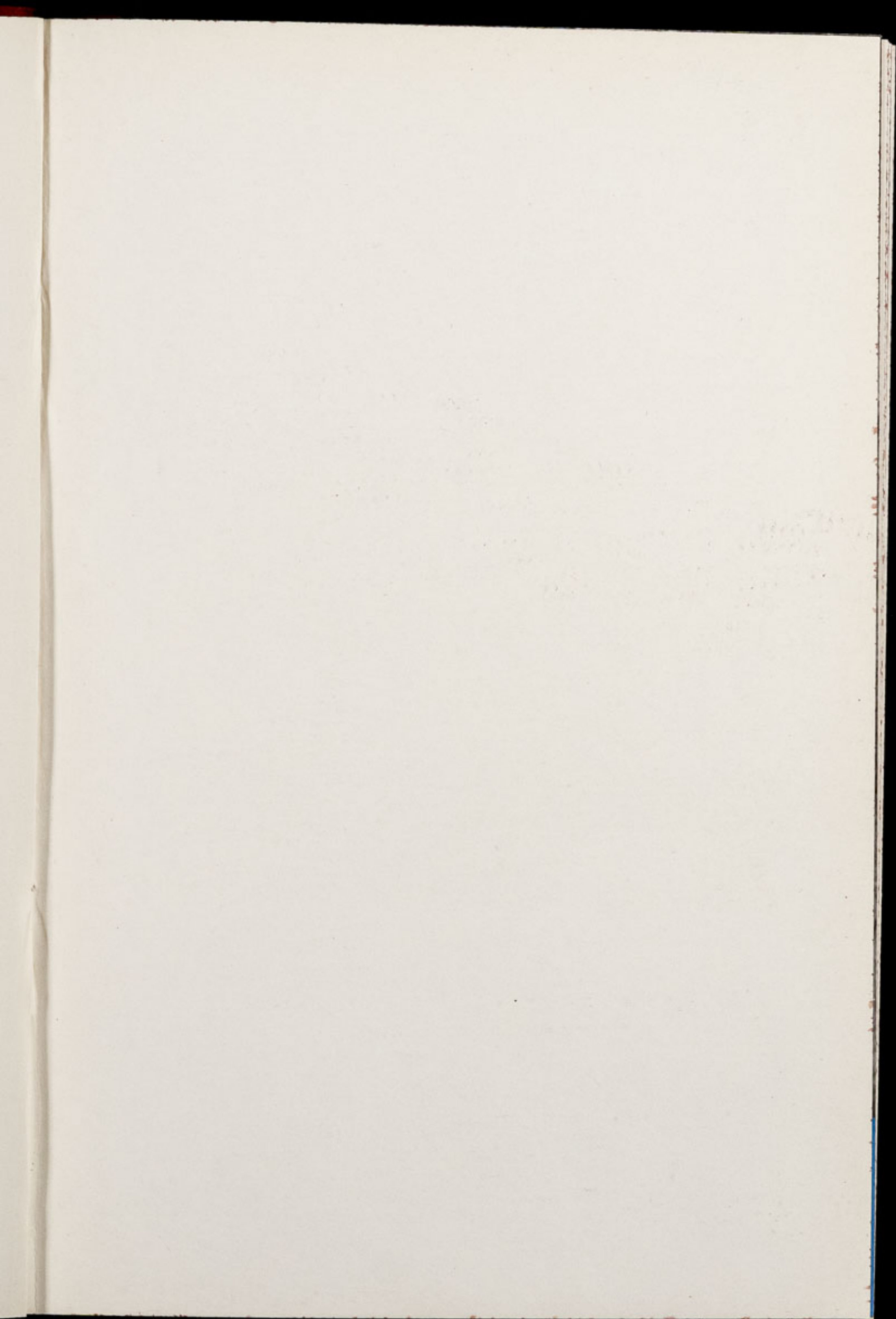
Jack Smith

MR. GEORGE MOTTERSHEAD WITH THE AUTHOR, JUNE JOHNS

against opposition, ignorance and sometimes poverty, the story of his endeavour with its successful outcome is told.

Messrs. Gollancz will give a Sherry party at the Zoo to launch the book.

As well as writing books — this is her second — June Johns is a freelance journalist and Assistant Editor of the monthly journal MENSA, the high I.Q. society, which circulates in 60 countries.



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