



*By Courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby*

# Chester Zoo News

## **AND GUIDE**

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

April 1966

Price 1/-



## Editorial

Despite very cold weather over the Easter holiday a large number of visitors came to the Zoo. Easter Monday was very cold indeed but over 27,000 visitors passed through the turnstiles; this figure would have been exceeded but one of the car parks became so waterlogged that people had to be turned away. Altogether over the Easter period a little over 70,000 persons visited the Zoo.

The past month has seen many new arrivals, with large consignments from New Guinea and Australia. There have also been a number of births, the most exciting being a Bactrian Camel and a Giraffe.

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*COVER: This month's cover shows Keeper Joy Thomas bottle feeding the Baby Bactrian Camel.*

## BIRTHS

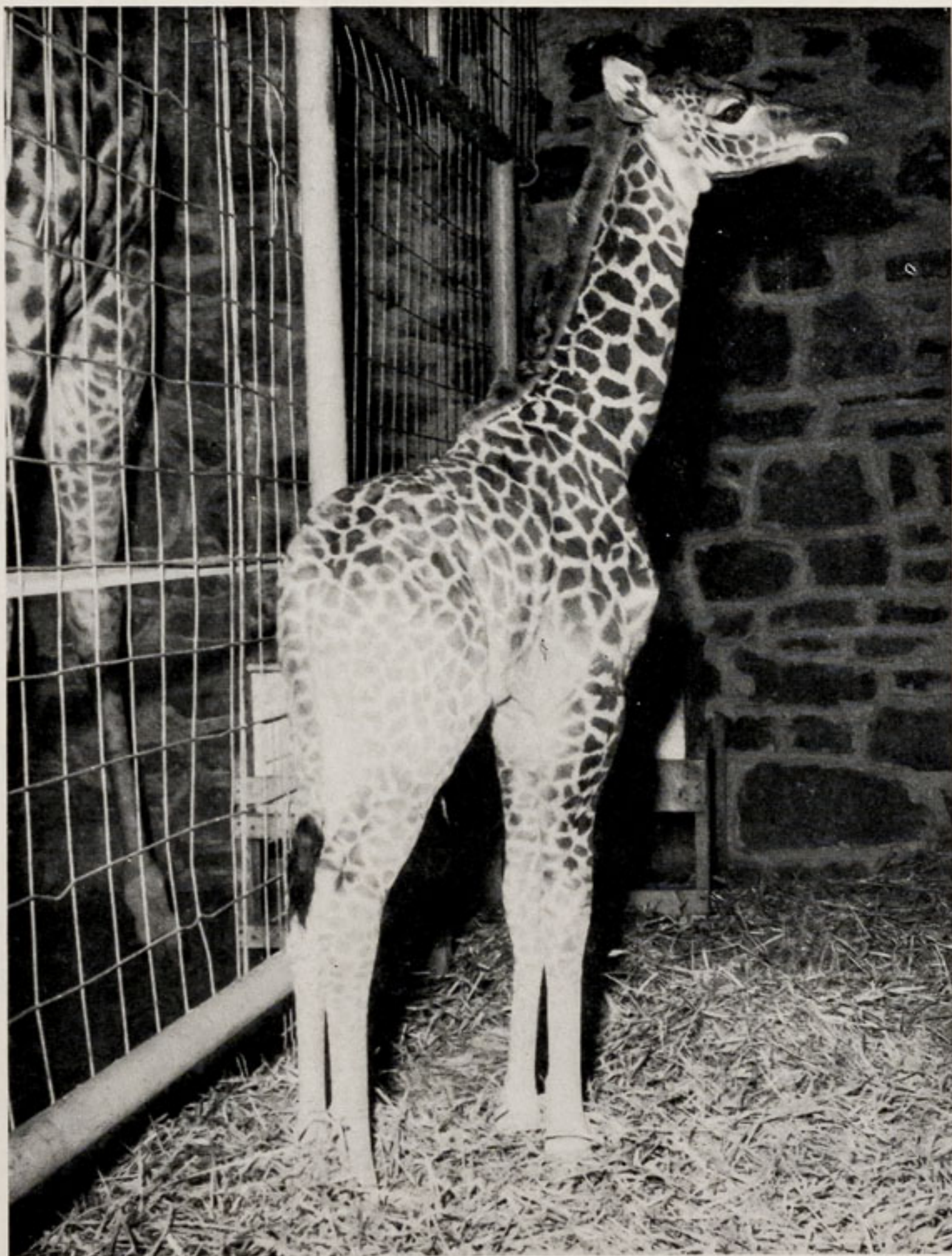
The cover photograph this month shows our baby Bactrian Camel, which was born on the 26th March, 1966. As can be seen he is being bottle fed by a keeper, because his Mother would not look after him. They were separated when the youngster was three days old; at first there were cries of anger from both Mother and Baby but now they have settled down. We estimate the baby Camel weighs 60-80 lbs. and stands 5ft. high.

A Giraffe was born on Good Friday, April 8th, and can be seen in the photograph on page 3, taken when he was only three days old. The Mother is taking great care of him and we are not expecting any complications.

Other births include four Puma cubs bred from the male who arrived during August 1965 and the female born at the Zoo during 1957, who has produced many sets of cubs. A Ring-Tailed Lemur was born in the Monkey House, the third or fourth to be born in Chester Zoo and is thriving at the time of writing. We are particularly pleased to be able to breed these Lemurs as they are becoming increasingly scarce and their exportation from Madagascar is now illegal. All three female Bagot Goats produced sets of twins but unfortunately one youngster has since died. We have had twins before but never a set from each of the females.

## HATCHINGS

The Scarlet Tanagers have one youngster in a nest in the Tropical House. We were rather concerned that the large number of visitors passing through the house over the Bank Holiday period might disturb them, but this has not been the case.



THREE-DAY OLD BABY GIRAFFE

Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

### HAND REARING YOUNG ANIMALS

The Keeper in the Cat House recently acquired two rather unusual charges — both deserted by their Mothers. They are a baby Caracal Lynx and a baby Jackal; both are kept in a box provided with hot water bottles to keep them warm. The babies are fed every four hours on milk from a syringe fitted with a rubber end. Of course they both need a feed during the night and are taken home by the Keeper each evening and brought to work in the morning. Both of these animals are doing extremely well but will need a great deal of care and attention to rear them to maturity.

### NEWS FROM THE REPTILE HOUSE

During the past month, nearly forty snakes and lizards have arrived in the Reptile House and this brings our total to almost 220 specimens. Many of these new arrivals such as the Land Mullets, Black Rock Skinks, Hosmer's Skinks, Jacky Lizards and She Oak Skinks are extremely rare in this country and were collected by a member of the Zoo Staff, when in Australia.

A few notes on each species follows, and it is hoped to include more detailed descriptions of habits and interesting facts about these rare Reptiles in future editions of *Chester Zoo News*.

She Oak Skinks (*Tiliqua casuarinae casuarinae*) are found in Coastal areas of Eastern Australia, Victoria and Tasmania. Normally about six living young are produced.

Blue-Tongued Skinks (*Tiliqua scincoides scincoides*) are found over most areas of Australia. They can grow to a length of almost 2ft. and are Australia's most familiar lizard. They are completely harmless to man but were erroneously believed to be venomous.



*Gary Talbot*

KEEPER J. SUMNER FEEDING YOUNG CARACAL LYNX

Jacky Lizards or Tree Dragons (*Amphibolurus muricatus*) are found in Eastern areas of Australia. Their food consists of insects and they usually feed on the ground but when disturbed run on their hind legs for the safety of the trees.

Lace Monitors (*Varanus varius*) are widely distributed in Australia, with the exception of desert areas and the far north. A large specimen can measure over seven feet in length and a monitor of this size can kill good sized animals, but will eat carrion or any flesh which comes its way.

Hosmer's Skinks (*Egernia hosmeri*) are found in stony outcrops of inland Northern Queensland and are rare even in the wild state. This lizard was described to science only during 1955 and very few have ever been exhibited in Zoological collections.

Black Rock Skinks (*Egerina saxatilis intermedia*) are found in coastal areas of eastern Australia.

Cunningham's Rock Skinks (*Egernia cunninghami*) are found generally over Australia, where they live in colonies among rock crevices. Their food consists of insects, herbage, ground blossom and gum leaves. Frequently, several can be seen basking on rocks; if alarmed they scamper into narrow crevices, where their spines prevent easy dislodgement and their tails readily dismember if used for withdrawal.

Land Mullets (*Egernia bungana*) are found in rain forest areas of south east Queensland and New South Wales. They grow to a length of two feet and have black gleaming bodies. Land Mullets usually live in community-warrens exposed to eastern sunlight, although some inhabit hollow logs. Food consists of insects, snails, fruit and smaller species of skinks. Normally four young are produced, but our female gave birth to seven on board a liner whilst crossing the equator.

Brown Tree Snakes (*Boiga irregularis*) are found in many areas of Australia and are purely nocturnal, living in small colonies in hollow trees or rock crevices. They are efficient climbers and feed at night on geckoes, small mammals, birds and birds eggs eaten when still warm from the parent bird. Although Brown Tree Snakes have poisonous fangs, these are situated at the rear of the mouth. For this reason and because of small venom capacity they are not dangerous to man. In Australia this snake is quite often found trapped in bird cages, as after entering the cage at night and eating the inmate, it becomes so distended it cannot leave.

Snake-necked Terrapins (*Chelodina longicollis*) are rare in this country but very common in south eastern Australia, and can be observed crossing roads in quite large numbers. An unpleasant habit of these Terrapins is to exude a strong lingering smell when frightened.

In addition to all these Australian Reptiles, six Amethystine Pythons (*Python amethystinus*) arrived from New Guinea with the consignment of birds and mammals. These Pythons can grow to a length of 20ft. and prey on mammals and birds.

Other new arrivals include three Starred Agamas (*Agama stellio*) from the Near East and a Zonure (*Cordylus giganteus*), a native of South Africa.

### AQUARIUM NEWS

Whilst spring cleaning in the Aquarium this month, we discovered a list made of the collection of fish as it stood in 1962, and were interested to find that at this time there were 108 separate species of fish, consisting of approximately 1,200 individuals. Of these over half were Livebearers (Mollies, Platies, Guppies and

# GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

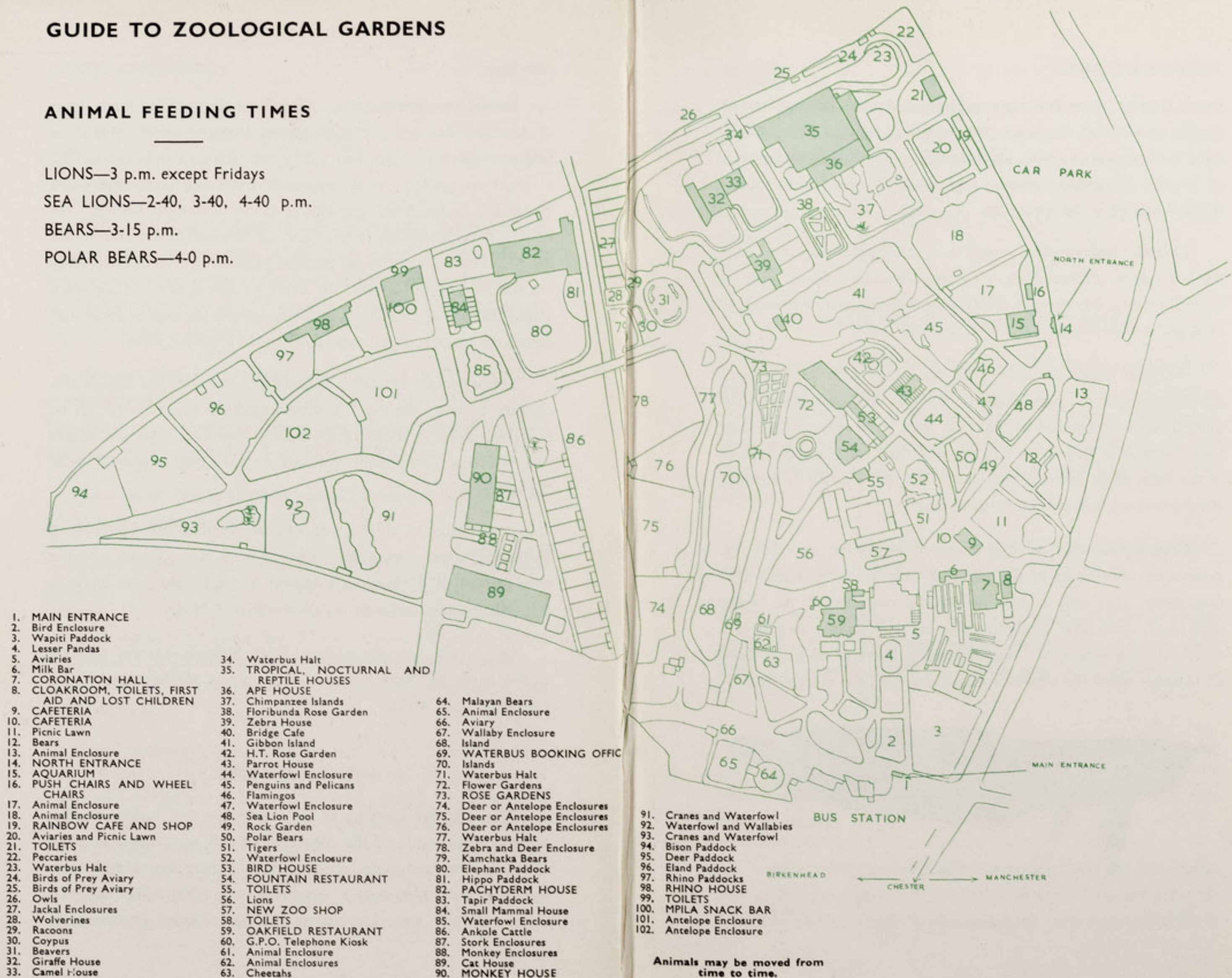
## ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

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. Racoons
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. Waterfowl 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

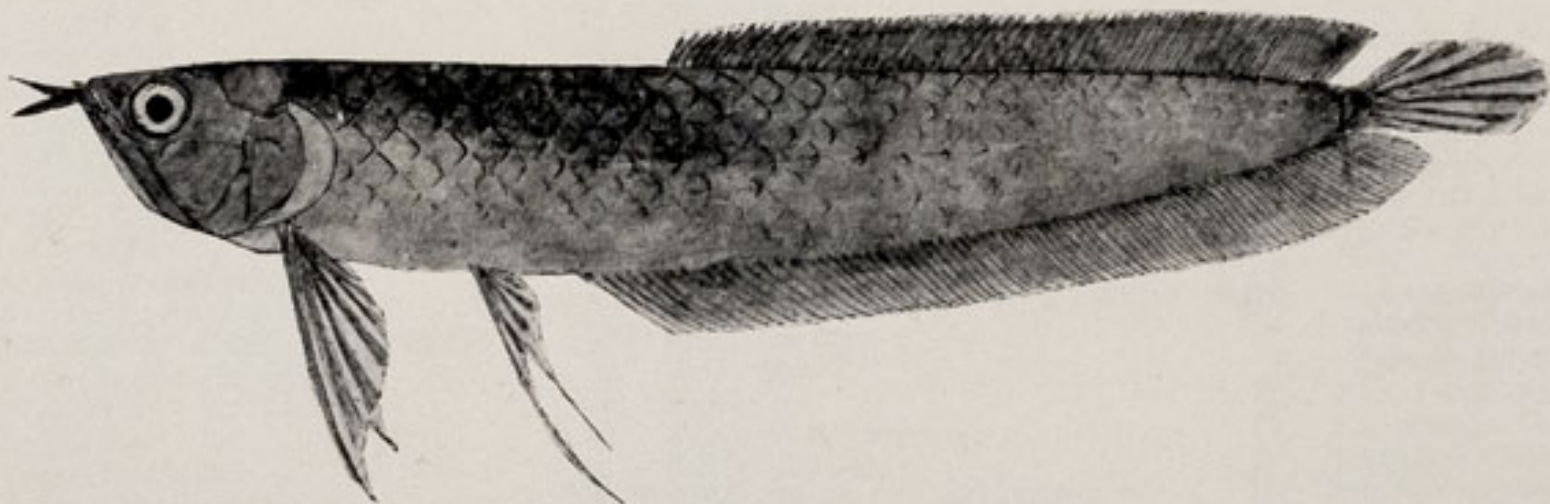
Animals may be moved from time to time.

Sword Tails). Since that time we have increased the number of species to 178 and the entire fish collection now numbers something in the region of 2,400. These figures do not include a collection of Turtles, Terrapins, Clawed Frogs, Axolotls and various invertebrates housed in the Aquarium.

In recent weeks these numbers have still further improved with the arrival of Archer Fish — *Toxotes jaculator*; Glass Fish — *Chanda* species; Mylossoma — *Mylossoma duriventris*; Arowana — *Osteoglossum bicirrhosum* and several small Tetras.

We had hoped to house the Arowanas with our original specimen which is approximately two feet long but when they arrived we were amazed to find that they were only three inches long; several of them were still carrying their food supply around in the form of an external yolk sac, which hung down in a rather clumsy manner between the pectoral fins.

Contrary to what we had imagined would happen, they fed ravenously after being in the tank for only a few minutes. Unfortunately, after only a week of peaceful co-existence, the larger ones took it into their minds to try to eat their smaller cousins and they had to be separated. We are hoping, however, to bring them all together when the smaller specimens are a little more robust.



AROWANA

M. D. Murphy

As readers of last month's Aquarium News will know, we now have four species of Piranha and we have just recently succeeded in housing two of these different types in the same tank. A close watch has been kept since this was done, to ensure that no mortal fights ensued and we are happy to say that so far they have settled down very well.

### CONSIGNMENT FROM NEW GUINEA

Mammals and Birds from New Guinea and adjacent islands are always a rarity and we anxiously awaited a large consignment, which finally arrived on the 23rd March. All these animals had spent several weeks on board ship and great care was taken with them, especially as the weather turned so cold soon after their arrival.

Many of the birds were housed in the bird hospital but have subsequently been transferred to their various quarters.

The five Blue-Eyed Cockatoos were in good health and were moved to the Parrot House almost immediately. One of these birds is very tame indeed but all are very noisy, giving vent to loud raucous screams.

The Red-sided Eclectus Parrots were kept in the hospital for some time before being taken to the Parrot House; they are shy birds and tend to keep rather still on their perches but will settle down gradually.

Lorikeets and Lories are most interesting birds and two species new to the Zoo arrived in this consignment. They are Edwards Lorikeets and Louisiade Lories and have been accommodated in

the inside glass-fronted enclosure of the bird-house. Lorikeets are sometimes called Brush-tongued Parrots and they actually have a form of brush on the end of their tongues. This enables them to drink the nectar from flowers and in captivity a nectar mixture forms the basis of their diet. All Lorikeets and Lories are excellent acrobats, especially the Black-capped, which are often seen swinging from a branch, upside down, holding on by one leg.

Three very tame Plicated Hornbills arrived and have been placed in the first aviary on the right in the Temperate Bird House. They have all settled extremely well and are great favourites with their keepers. Although only young specimens at the moment, they will when fully grown, be almost as large as the Great Indian Hornbills.

Several other birds arrived at the same time, including Nicobar, White-headed and Brown Pigeons, Grey Fruit Pigeons and Papuan Mynahs.

A number of unusual mammals also arrived in this consignment. Probably the most attractive are the Ring-tailed Possums and Sugar Gliders, which have been accommodated in the Small Mammal House. The Cuscus is also rather attractive being almost pure white in colour with a pink face. At the moment it is housed in the animal hospital but will be transferred in the near future. The Spiny Bandicoot has already been found a suitable enclosure in the Nocturnal House and at certain times is extremely active. Two species of Fruit Bat are housed in one of the aviaries in the Tropical House. They seem fairly tame and one will walk down the wires when called. As their name implies they feed exclusively on fruit and at the Zoo are provided with special feeding dishes, so that they can feed while hanging upside down from the aviary roof.



Gary Talbot

HEAD KEEPER J. MURRAY WITH BLUE-EYED COCKATOO

### BLACK PANTHERS

In the February issue we mentioned how well our Black Panther cubs were progressing. We are pleased to say that they are still in excellent health and as can be seen in the photograph have just had their injections. This is to immunize them against feline enteritis; a dangerous disease in all the cat family, injections being undertaken when they are seven weeks old and again at nine weeks. Unlike most leopards, the Black Panthers are very vicious even at this early age and great care was taken when injecting them. They have now been separated from their Mother and can often be seen climbing the rock-work in their outside quarters, but have access to a heated inside den as well.

### SPRING AT THE ZOO

Despite the cold and damp weather, parts of the Zoo are looking very spring-like. The photograph on the back page was taken on the far side of the Chimpanzee Island, where our pair of swans can be seen nesting. They are not the pair that have nested during many previous years, as the pen died last year and another one has taken her place during the winter. In the foreground can be seen some of the 7½ tons of daffodils which have been planted in various places throughout the Zoo. These daffodils have been a marvellous show, especially on the islands numbered 68 and 70 on the plan.





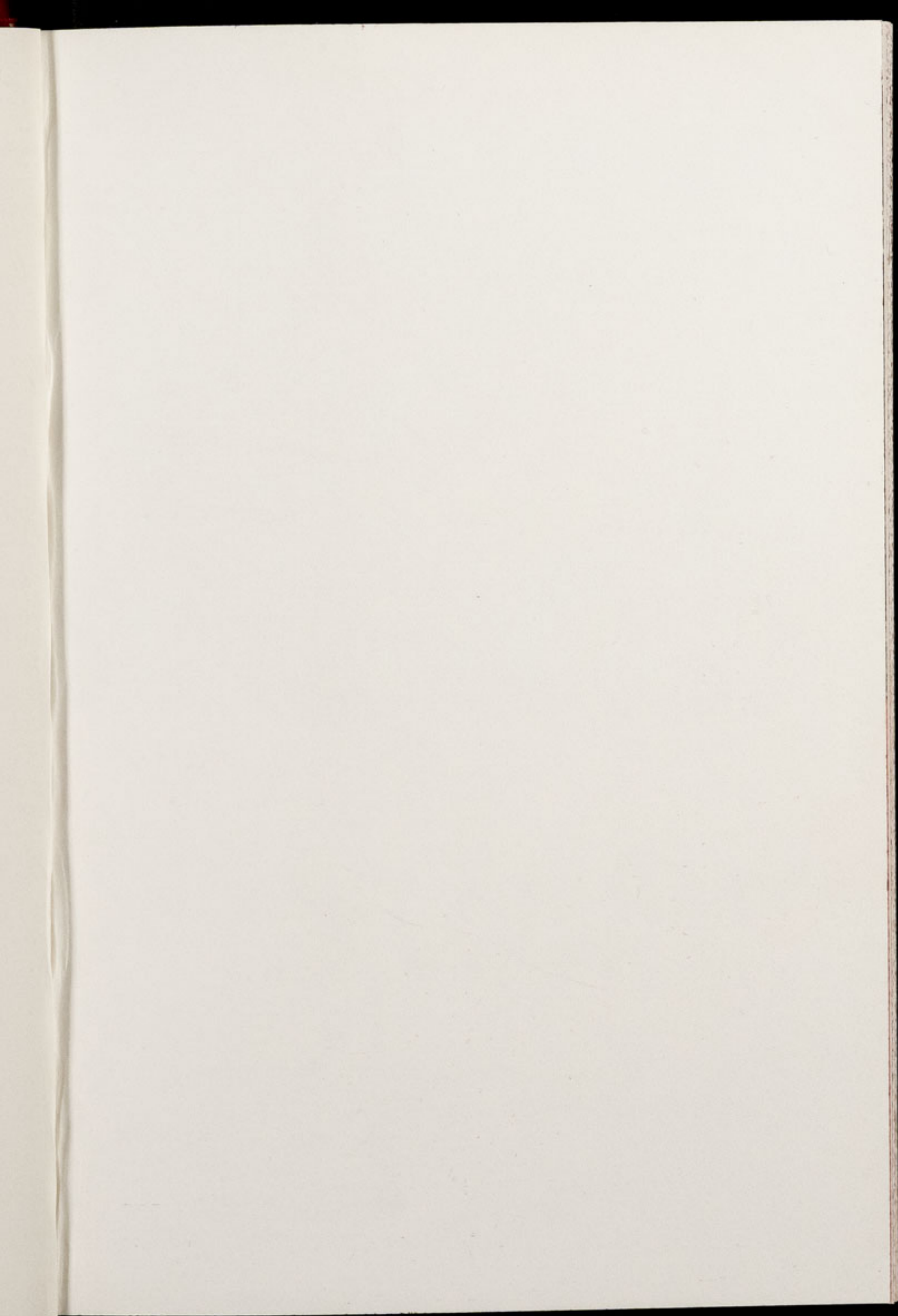
*K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.*

ZOO VET R. HEYWOOD AND KEEPER J. SUMNER  
INJECTING PANTHER CUB



*Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby*

SPRING SCENE AT THE ZOO



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