



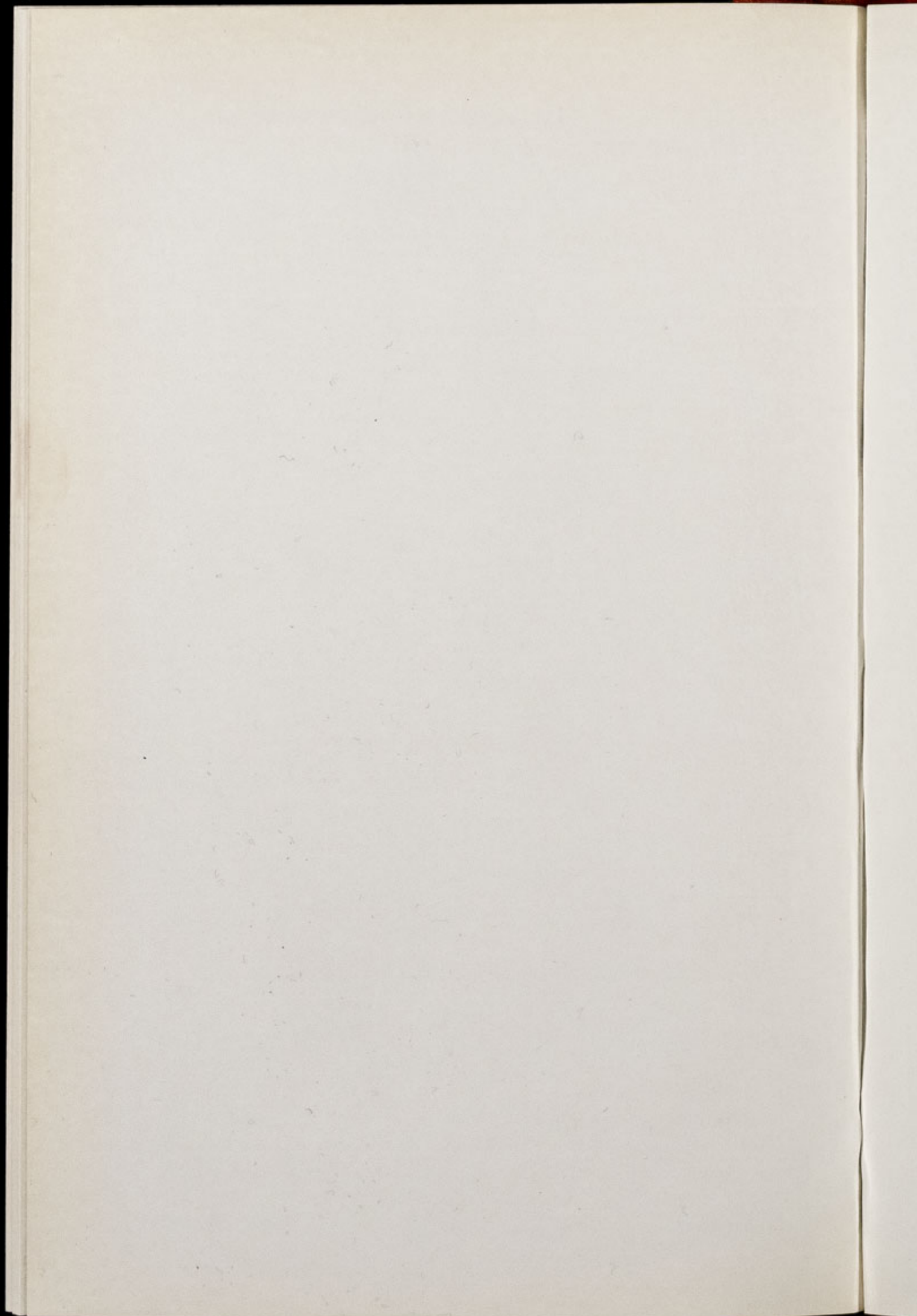
**Aquarium Silver Jubilee
Edition**

**Chester Zoo News
*AND GUIDE***

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

October 1977

Price 12p



The North of England Zoological Society
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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COVER

Electric Catfish (*Malapterurus electricus*)

By courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

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25th ANNIVERSARY

The present Aquarium celebrates its Silver Jubilee this month and we thought our readers might be interested to know why and how it came to be built. Mrs. June Williams, the Curator of the Aquarium, has given to us the following article which we feel sure you will enjoy reading.

"The first Aquarium at Chester Zoo was built in the wine cellars of what is now the "Oakfield Restaurant". After the war the Aquarium was enlarged to include our collection of reptiles. The combined exhibits were a great attraction but the facilities for keeping them were poor. The cellar flooded whenever it rained heavily, and the presence of so much water was affecting the structure of the main building. Cleaning out the pool for the rapidly growing alligators became a daily hazard. Several species of snakes were kept in one large enclosure, so that at feeding time the only way to prevent the larger snakes swallowing the smaller ones was to keep guard with a wet mop!

A sizable collection of African snakes, including cobras and mambas, was given to the Society, but these reptiles could not be housed in the cellars. A new Reptile House had therefore to be built rather hurriedly. (The shell of this building now forms the Penguin exhibit). When the reptiles were put into their new home, the Aquarium looked very empty, and the number of visitors dropped considerably. This was very disheartening, especially for me.

The "new" Aquarium came to be built in its present form because we had a friend who was a plasterer. He had previously built us a concrete fireplace, incorporating a three-foot fish tank, and at the time the idea took shape he was helping us to build a wall round the garden at the lodge.

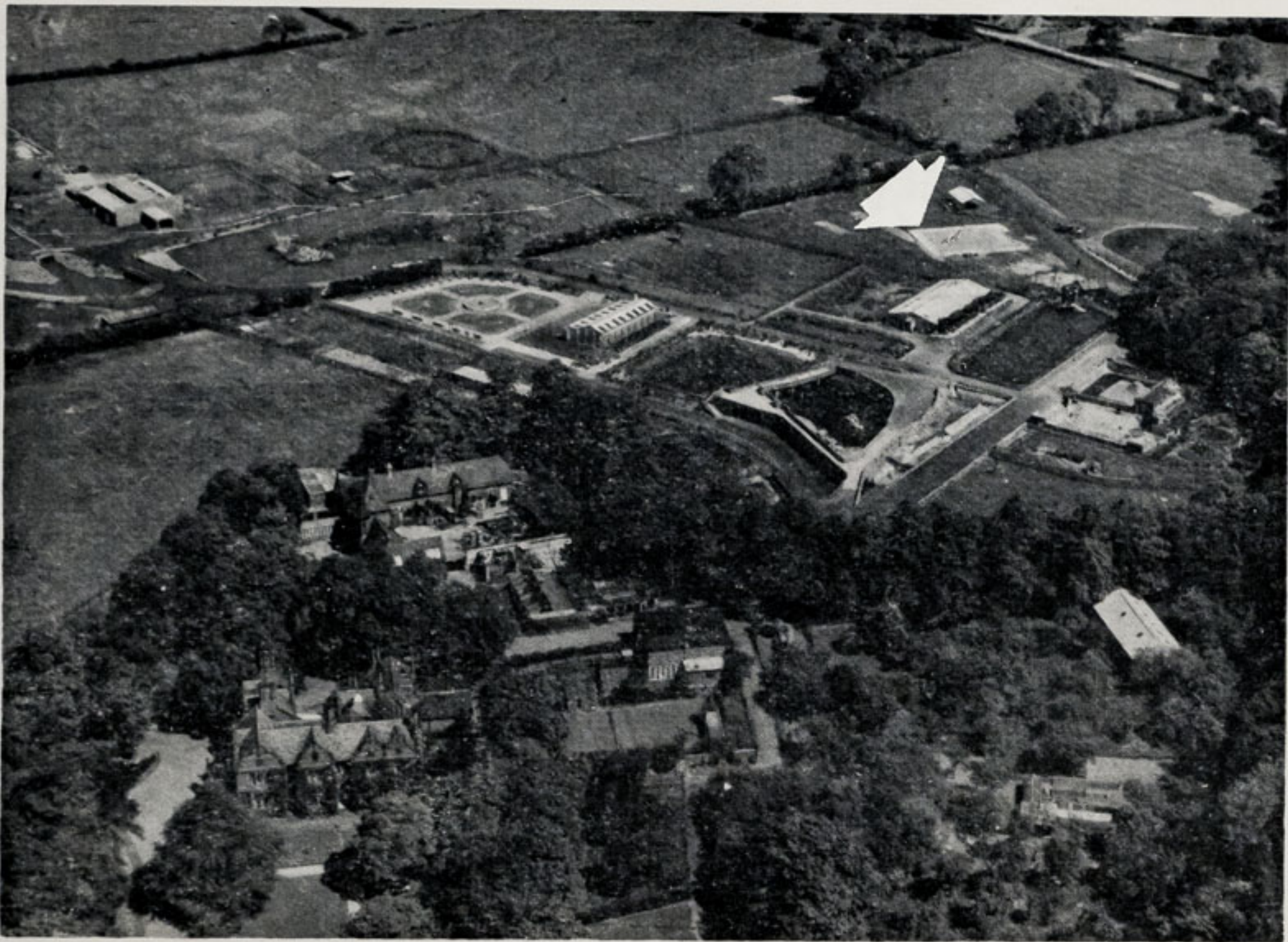
One night I was moaning about the state of the original Aquarium when our kind friend suggested that we could build a new one cheaply in the same way that he had built the tank over the fireplace. The latter had been achieved with mortar plastered on to chicken wire. Fired with enthusiasm and very little knowledge of what we were letting ourselves in for, we set to work.

We visited as many aquariums as we could and spent our evenings planning what we wanted and what the Zoo could afford. Fred, my husband, who had never planned a building in his life, drew up the plans. These were placed before my father, Mr. G. S. Mottershead, Director-Secretary, and the Society Council. They agreed that when the time and materials became available we should go ahead and build a new Aquarium. There was just one snag. The Zoo's first Giraffes had at that time arrived in London and were in quarantine for twelve months—the building of the Giraffe House hadn't even been commenced. We could see ourselves struggling along for years in the old Aquarium, waiting for the right time and money, so we decided to make a start on our own, working in the evening as we both had full time jobs in the Zoo during the day.

Firstly, we had to make one hundred and thirty concrete pillars. These would hold the roof, and mortar plastered on to chicken wire in between the pillars would reinforce and form the walls. A few were made each night during the winter months. Secondly, a 6-in. concrete floor had to be laid on the foundations to hold all these pillars! When they were in place we were constantly being asked if it was an old ruin we were building. Wire had to be threaded through holes which we had left in the pillars on which to hang the chicken wire. This wire, when plastered would form the walls of the tanks of the Aquarium. The plastering was really getting under way now, and the building began to take shape.

It was lucky that by this time my husband had learned to plaster. Another piece of luck was that in some ex-war supplies that my father had bought were two ex-R.A.F. landing lights. This made it possible to work during the winter evenings (no television then!). I think that if we had known the amount of work involved at this stage we would never have started. Finally, the tanks were in readiness for the front glass to be fitted and the tanks filled with water. How they leaked at the first filling!

Heating the tanks was a problem. Just after the war heating pipes were very hard to obtain, so my husband decided to use Pyrotanix heating cable. This consisted of a heating element enclosed in a copper jacket. Several of these cables were passed through the tanks and experiments suggested that the small quantity of copper involved would not harm the fish or stop the plants in the tanks from



AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ZOO TAKEN 25 YEARS AGO. The "new" Aquarium is indicated by an arrow.

growing. This type of heating is still in use today, augmented by oil-fired central heating. The air for the filter system was supplied by the compressor of a refrigerator, converted for the job. Although the new Aquarium was opened to the public in October 1952, the tanks were only sparsely filled, and the following months were spent breeding fish and growing plants ready for the 1953 season."

After twenty-five years the Aquarium, in basic terms, is the same as when it was built. The introduction of plastics has revolutionized fish keeping, especially in regard to tropical marine fish. At some future date it is hoped that a new Aquarium will be built when we can take advantage of all the new materials which are available.

On page 4 is a photograph of the layout of the Zoo as it was 25 years ago, the arrow on the right indicating the foundations of the "new" Aquarium. Regular visitors to the Zoo will readily appreciate the extent to which improvements have been made over the years.



By courtesy of M. D. Murphy

YOUNG BLACK AXOLOTL

The illustration above (taken from our August 1963 Chester Zoo News) shows a young Black Axolotl (*Amblystome mexicanum*) with its full complement of gills. These fish breed quite easily in captivity, but are difficult to rear. However, Michael Crumpler, the Head Keeper of the Aquarium, has succeeded in rearing 200 specimens this season.

GENERAL NEWS

"Jubilee", our baby elephant, is now quite sturdy and consequently increasingly sure of himself footwise. His legs and his whole body are thicker, making him look more like an elephant. It is

amusing to see him running across the paddock in order to investigate something which he feels is of interest to him. Until recently the only noise he emitted was a squeak, but he has now started trumpeting in the manner of all elephants.

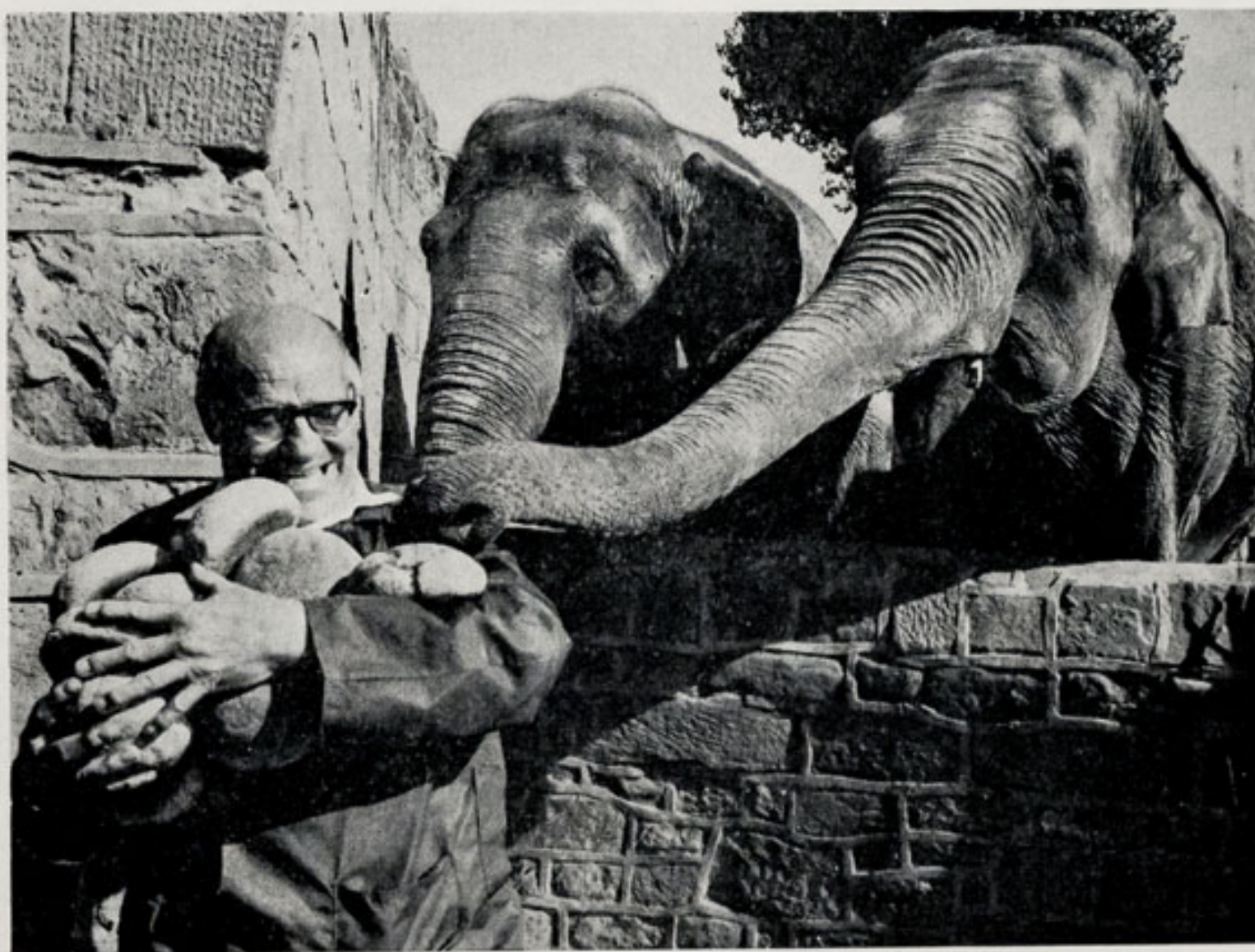
The keepers report that he makes attempts to charge them, coming to a halt when he feels he has advanced too near. He is frequently very mischievous, but the females see to it that he does not get into any difficulties such as when making a run at the African bull elephant. As we have mentioned previously, "Jubilee" is certainly acquiring some of the mannerisms of his father "Nobby", being at times quite endearing to the keepers and at others somewhat tantalising.

On one occasion Les Hills, the Head Keeper for the Pachyderm House, threw a quite substantial branch of willow on to the paddock, calling "Judy" the mother. She came immediately, followed by the others including "Jubilee", all vying with each other as to who should have (pardon) the lion's share. It was a magnificent sight, the elephants walking round the whole of the perimeter of the paddock with one object in view, to add a little more roughage to their diet.

On page 7 there is an amusing photograph of Les with two of his charges. This was taken during the recent bread strike, when we made sure that the animals in the Zoo did not suffer from a shortage of bread which we were fortunate enough to be able to make in our own Bakery.

* * *

Lowland Gorilla "Jo-Jo" (*Gorilla gorilla*), a male aged fourteen years, of recent television fame, has been sent to us on breeding loan for six months. He and our female "Gogal" (*Gorilla gorilla*) were introduced by keeping them in adjoining sleeping dens at the rear of the Tropical House. The introduction proved successful and we now have the pair on show to the visitors on both islands where we can contain them, each island being surrounded by a moat. On arrival at the Zoo in 1961 "Gogal" herself was not easy to introduce into the collection. She was then only about 3½ years old, and escaped from Chimp Island several times by wading through the moat, an electric fence being subsequently erected to prevent this happening again. Our male Lowland Gorilla "Jason" came to us in July 1965 and was



By courtesy of P. Stubbs, Daily Mirror

"JUDY" AND "SHEBA" IN THE BREAD QUEUE

then 2 years 3 months old. He is being housed in the New Ape House whilst "Jo-Jo" is with us.

Our other male "Mukisi" (*Gorilla gorilla beringei*) was about 3½ years old on arrival at the Zoo in November 1960. The name "Mukisi" is apparently Swahili for "Idol". This is the quite rare species of Mountain Gorilla endangered in the wild, its numbers being reduced to 500 or less. It is restricted to interconnected mountain chains of western Rwanda, southwest Uganda and eastern Zaire. Its habitat occurs in high altitude areas of mountainous rain forests, bamboo, *Hagenia* woodland and, infrequently, in areas of *Hypericum* and giant senecios. Most of the range is however included within national parks or game reserves where the species is well protected. In parkland these animals commonly occur in secondary forest, but they do not enter grasslands. The population decline of the species in recent years would appear to be due to human disturbance in some parts of an already restricted habitat.

* * *

A pair of Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) has been purchased.

CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

FOR A COMPLETE TOUR OF THE ZOO — Follow Nos 1-116 with Entrance,
or Nos.16-116 from North Entrance then return to Nos.1-14.

**Chester Zoo is Open Daily
from 9.00 a.m. until dusk.**

To LECTURE HALL
(Private)



1. SOUTH ENTRANCE

2. Peacock Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Coati Enclosure
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. Sunken Garden
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. Shop and Kiosk
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 Hyena Enclosures
29. Animal Enclosure
30. Porcupine Enclosure
31. Coypus
32. Beavers
33. Giraffe House

34. Camel House
35. Waterbus Halt
36. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL & REPTILE HOUSES
37. CHIMPANZEES
38. Floribunda Rose Garden
39. Mammal House
40. Gibbon Island
41. H.T. Rose Garden
42. Aviaries
43. Flamingos
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Waterfowl Enclosure
46. Waterfowl Enclosure
47. Penguins
48. Sealions
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Cat Enclosure
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. P.O. Telephone
63. Aviary
64. Animal Enclosure
65. Animal Enclosure
66. Ornamental Rock Garden
67. Malayan Bears
68. Kangaroo Enclosure
69. Aviary
70. Cheetahs
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. Emus and Cranes
88. Stork Enclosures
89. Baboon Pens
90. Cat House
91. Big Cat Enclosures

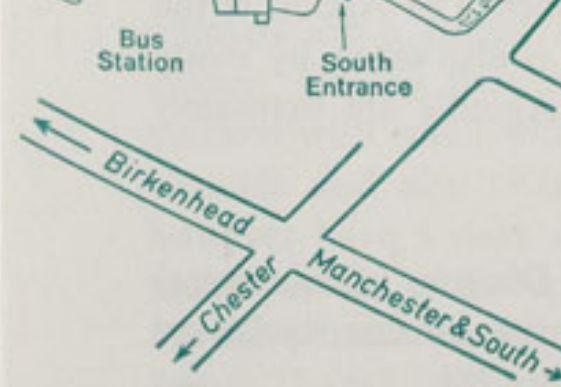
92. Antelope and
93. Antelope and
94. Antelope and
95. Zebras
96. Zebras
97. Waterfowl and
98. Waterfowl and
99. Waterfowl and
100. Blackback
101. Wallabies
102. Animal and
103. Wallabies
104. Pere David's Paddock

105. Llamas
- 105a. Llamas
106. Arabian Gazelles
107. Animal Paddock
108. Bison
109. Pere David's Deer Paddock
110. Prairie Marmots, Alpacas
111. Antelope Enclosure
112. RHINOS
113. TOILETS
114. Mpila Snack Bar
115. Antelope Enclosure
116. MONKEY HOUSE

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES:

- LIONS—3 pm except Fridays
BEARS—3-15 pm
POLAR BEARS—4 pm
SEA LIONS 3 times daily—
2-30 pm, 3-30 pm, 4-30 pm

ANIMALS MAY BE MOVED
FROM TIME TO TIME



The male is eleven years old, the female twelve years. At this time they are in an inside enclosure getting to know us, but eventually will be allowed outside on to Chimp Island. One wonders how they will react to the island moat. We shall see!

* * *

An Orange-rumped Agouti (*Dasyprocta aguti*) has been purchased. This long-legged rodent, a male, can be seen in the Small Mammal House, Enclosure 84.

The distribution of the Agouti is North of South America, its wide range including parts of the West Indies. This animal is a surface dweller and its habitat is the tropical Amazon forest. It is a highly-strung creature, running away at the slightest alarm, erecting its long rump hairs to an extraordinary degree. The coat in this area is much longer than that of other parts of the body and in some brightly coloured species this produces a rather dramatic increase in the colour of that region. Orange-rumped Agoutis are common in Brazil and the Guianas. Of the several species of Agouti one has a pure white rump and another a black one.

In the wild the Agouti feeds on berries, nuts and roots. It eats in a sitting up position, holding the food between its front feet, peeling off any outer skin before commencing to feed. All over the communal range small holes can be found where Agoutis store their food in small quantities as opposed to the large "larder hoard" in one particular place used by some other species. The Agouti is the prey of most South American carnivores and is also eaten by many other species including man. Despite this, Agoutis are extremely prolific over all their range.

* * *

We have been presented with a pair of Dingoes (*Canis dingo*) and these have settled down very well in the outside enclosure situated near the Jackals and Hyaenas (Enclosure 28).

The Dingo is found in Australia, being of medium size and having a rusty-yellow coat. Dingoes kept in captivity almost invariably show whitish spots on their paws and chest. There are black and white specimens, but these are rarely seen and would appear to be endangered in the wild. Likened to sheep dogs, the dingo has a bushy tail usually carried upright in the manner of a dog. When hunting, dingoes assemble in a family unit or a pack of two such groups. They

are the predators of kangaroos and smaller animals, sometimes being harmful to domestic sheep.

A species of wild dog suddenly emerged in Australia, raising the question as to whether the dingo was a native wild animal or perhaps a descendent of domestic dogs which had gone "wild". It is generally felt that the latter is the case, these dogs having become standardized in type with the progress of time. The domestic dogs would be those introduced to Australia by the Indians and not by European settlers.

* * *

One male and two female Axis Deer (*Axis axis*) have been received into the collection. These animals are now rare in the wild, the distribution being India and Ceylon. There are three species of Axis Deer, the second being *Axis calamianensis*, which is known only from the Calamian Islands in the western portion of the Philippines. The third, *Axis porcinus*, is native to India, Indo-China, and Thailand being introduced to Ceylon. The new animals can be seen in Enclosure 98.

The natural habitat of this species (*Axis axis*) is the open grasslands and light jungle; they rarely make their way into heavy forest. Their pelage is coarse, being longest on the flanks. They lack the mane on the throat or neck of some species of deer. In general these animals are a bright rufous-fawn or yellowish-brown to brownish colour. During part of the year the upper areas are attractively marked with small white spots. Colouration between the species is variable and also changes with the different seasons. All species however have a dark dorsal stripe, white under-parts and whitish under-surface of the tail. The antlers are supported on pedicels and are three-tined, the brow tine creating almost a right-angle with the beam. The tail is long and slender.

Axis axis stags shed their antlers in August, and grow a new set. During this period they frequently move away from the herd, retreating into the jungle, afterwards returning to the herd.

In general these deer are grazers. They do however occasionally browse and are fond of different kinds of fallen flowers and fruits of forest trees. In the wild, mating is usually in April or May, and after

a gestation period of 7/8 months generally two young are born, but sometimes one or even three. The doe retires into dense cover to have her young. In their natural habitat these deer are recorded as living from 10/15 years. They do well in zoos and parks where they probably have an even longer life-span.

RECENT BREEDINGS IN THE ZOO

- 1 Grant's (or common) Zebra (*Equus burchelli granti*)
- 1 Alpaca (*Lama pacos*)
- 0.1 Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*)
- 1 Wapiti (*Cervus canadensis*)
- 1 Sierra Leone Striped Squirrel (*Fumisciurus pyrrhopus leonis*)
- Common Leopard Cubs (*Panthera pardus*)
- 2 Tiger Cubs (*Panthera tigris*)

BIRD NOTES

We have pleasure in reporting the following birds which have been bred since our last issue of the magazine.

- 2 Fischer's Lovebirds (*Agapornis fischeri*)
- 2 Green Singing Finches (*Serinus mozambicus*)
- 2 Tri-coloured Nuns (*Munia malacca*)
- 4 Linnets
- 1 Quaker Parakeet (*Miopsitta monachus*)
- 4 Guinea Fowl (*Numida Meleagris*)
- 9 Jungle Fowl (*Gallus varius*)
- 4 Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*)
- 1 Great Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*)
- 2 Jungle Myanhs (*Aethiopsar fuscus*)
- 4 "Java" Doves (*Streptopelia "risoria"*) domesticated
- 1 Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus peguensis*)
- 3 Nanday Conures (*Nandayus nanday*)

* * *

A pair of Crested Green Wood Partridges (*Rollulus roulroul*), also known as "Roulroul" Partridges, have been received in exchange. The distribution of this species is throughout Malaysia, parts of Thailand and Burma, some islands of the Mergui Archipelago and even Borneo. This is a bird of the forest and bamboo groves, spending

most of its time scratching around for ants and beetles, and any grubs that form a basic part of its diet. It also eats fruit and seeds. In captivity it does well on diced mixed fruit, a good insectivorous mixture, ground raw beef and live-food in practically any form. It has been observed to leap up in the air to catch the occasional moth.

When not roosting in the trees at night this bird spends most of its time on the ground. Its overall length is about 10 inches (25 cm). An adult male is a dark, glossy blue-green above, becoming greener on the lower back and rump; the wings are a dark brown, being paler at the tips and washed with blue on the shoulders; the short tail is black. Its head is its most arresting feature with its long, cockade-like crest of bristling red feathers, with a white patch in between that and the long, black, hair-like bristle on the forehead. It has a patch of red skin around the eyes; the remainder of the head and back are black, glossed blue in the same manner as the underparts. The small bill is curved and is red at the base, the remainder being black. Its legs and feet are crimson, and its claws horn-coloured. The female has the same frontal bristles on the forehead but lacks the crest and the white patch, the head being grey. Its mantle, back and underparts are green, the wings a rich cinnamon-brown; the tail is black. The legs and feet of the female are also crimson, but the bill is black throughout.

When put together in an enclosure males tend to be quarrelsome and should be kept separately. One male can be kept with several females but he will select one as his mate and stay with her throughout their life-span.

Crested Green Wood Partridges do not breed easily in captivity and the eggs may have to be incubated artificially should they do so. The clutch however, is usually about five eggs of a yellowish-white colour averaging 39 by 32 mm. in size. Incubation would normally be by the female, lasting about 21 days. At birth the newly-born chicks are covered with a dark brown down. Their legs and feet are red and the bill is dark. These chicks are quite active after leaving their shells. Both parents look after them, showing the youngsters where to feed, picking up pieces of food and dropping them down in front of them.

At seven days there is feathering in the wings and at the end of

a further week, the wings have light tips, the underparts being lightly marked with pale, pinhead spots. The next change in colouring occurs in the upper plumage, which takes on the green of the adult birds, the females being slightly lighter. At four weeks old one is therefore able to sex them quite accurately. Young males are liable to be killed by the father and should be removed for safety. The chicks are in full colour at seven months.

REPTILE NEWS

We have been presented with the following reptiles:

- 5 Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus atrox*)
- 3 Timber Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus h. horridus*)
- 1 Copperhead Snake (*Ancistrodon c. contortrix*)
- 1 Indian Python (*Python molurus*)
- 1 Bosc's Monitor Lizard (*Varanus c. exanthematicus*)

Of the five Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes, one is Albino and is in a Vivarium on its own. It is of course immediately distinguishable from the remainder by its pale yellowish colour with the "diamond" markings showing up in a slightly less pale colour. Fully-grown the Western Diamondback can grow to 7/8-ft., and weigh about 35-lbs. It is one of the very large venomous snakes, its poison glands secreting an unusually large amount of potent venom. Venom can be ejected deep into the muscle of its victim by long poison fangs and when this happens the attack can be lethal.

In general Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes are greyish-brown or olive-grey. Their backs have diamond-shaped markings and in some instances glitter like real diamonds particularly after sloughing. These snakes have short black tails, the strong black appearance being created by several broad black rings. As an appendage to their tails these snakes have a "rattle" which is a pale translucent reddish-brown colour.

True rattlesnakes "rattle" so loudly that they give plenty of warning of an impending attack. Snakes which do not have a "rattle" are probably more dangerous than the rattlesnake, individuals finding themselves close to their attacker, giving little time to withdraw from danger. When the rattlesnake senses danger the "rattle" can be heard up to a distance of 30-45 feet. Vibrations of the tail

increase to such an extent as to make it appear like a misty shadow. When danger recedes the "rattle" dies down slowly, eventually becoming silent. One can imagine that several snakes together can make a most alarming noise.

Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes prey on small rodents, young Lizards, and also on young birds. Their distribution is in some eastern parts of North America, ranging from Arkansas and Central Texas west to the Colorado Desert in California, inhabiting dry, possibly arid, country such as brush-covered plains, dry washes, sandstone outcrops, or mesquite-crowned dunes. These snakes are sometimes called Desert Diamond Rattlesnakes. They do however like bushy, rocky country and rolling hills best. Occasionally they are to be found in grassy meadows or fields. During the hot parts of the day they are idle, feeding mostly late in the evenings. This species however, is a lowland form, being a dweller of plains and desert flats.

* * *

Bred in the Zoo recently are the following reptiles:

7 Leopard Geckos (*Eublepharis macularis*)

9 Hybrid Rat Snakes

One Green Tree Python (*Chondropython viridis*) has been received in exchange.

GARDENING NOTES

With the summer season over we now have to prepare and plant our flower beds for displays next Spring. We hope the weather will be on the dry side this month so that we can get on with the job, otherwise delays can take us into November, when any sort of weather can be expected.

We plant out the wallflowers first to give them the best chance to recover before the weather gets colder and the soil cools down. Next will be the pansies which do not suffer so much from being moved. These usually come from the nursery with the flowers in bloom and give us an extension of colour until the darker days of winter. We leave the polyanthus until the last as they do not seem to be affected whatsoever time they are moved.

Quite a number of the summer plants have to be lifted and brought into the greenhouse for the winter. All the Standard Fuchsias are lifted and put in 9-in. pots again; we do however grow new standards of Heliotrope and Lantana. We also lift the *Lobelia cardinalis* the plants being put in boxes and kept in a cool greenhouse. Although this plant does not flower until August its scarlet flowers and dark red leaves show up very well in a border. It grows to a height of about 3-ft. and its common name is the "Cardinal Flower". In the Spring we shall divide the plants and grow a new batch in 5-inch whalehide pots.

The Dahlia plants will be cut down and the tubers lifted at the end of the month. Some gardeners believe one should wait until a frost kills the tops before lifting the tubers. We cannot always wait for that time, but we still keep our stocks going. Some of our varieties might be a few years old but it is worth nothing they still appear on the trade stands at shows. It could be that they stand up to the heavy dews or rain late in the season. Bloodstone, Edinburgh and Winsome are among these older varieties we have.

The Canna Lilies are also lifted and dried off in the greenhouse. We trim off the flowers and some of the leaves, keeping a little soil around the roots.

Just through the entrance to the Tropical House a group of winter-flowering Begonias can be seen. There is also a group of Anthuriums, the common name being "Flamingo Plant". Bougainvillea and Hibiscus are still in flower there. The troughs and pockets in various parts of the House contain a variety of low-growing tropical plants. Amongst these is *Pilea cadierii*, which is bushy and grows to 12 inches high; it has dark green leaves and silver markings and these are the plant's main attraction.

Also in the Tropical House is *Pilea microphylla*—another bushy plant with very small fern-like foliage which has the common name "Artillery Plant". When in contact with water its unexpanded buds burst and discharge pollen. There is also *Plectranthus fruticosus* which has a spreading habit and is good for growing over the edges of troughs. Its leaves are green and in good light the veins will show up pink. *Plectranthus oertandahli* spreads just the same but has mauve-shaded leaves with lovely veins, and whitish-lavender coloured flowers in October and March.

**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**

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