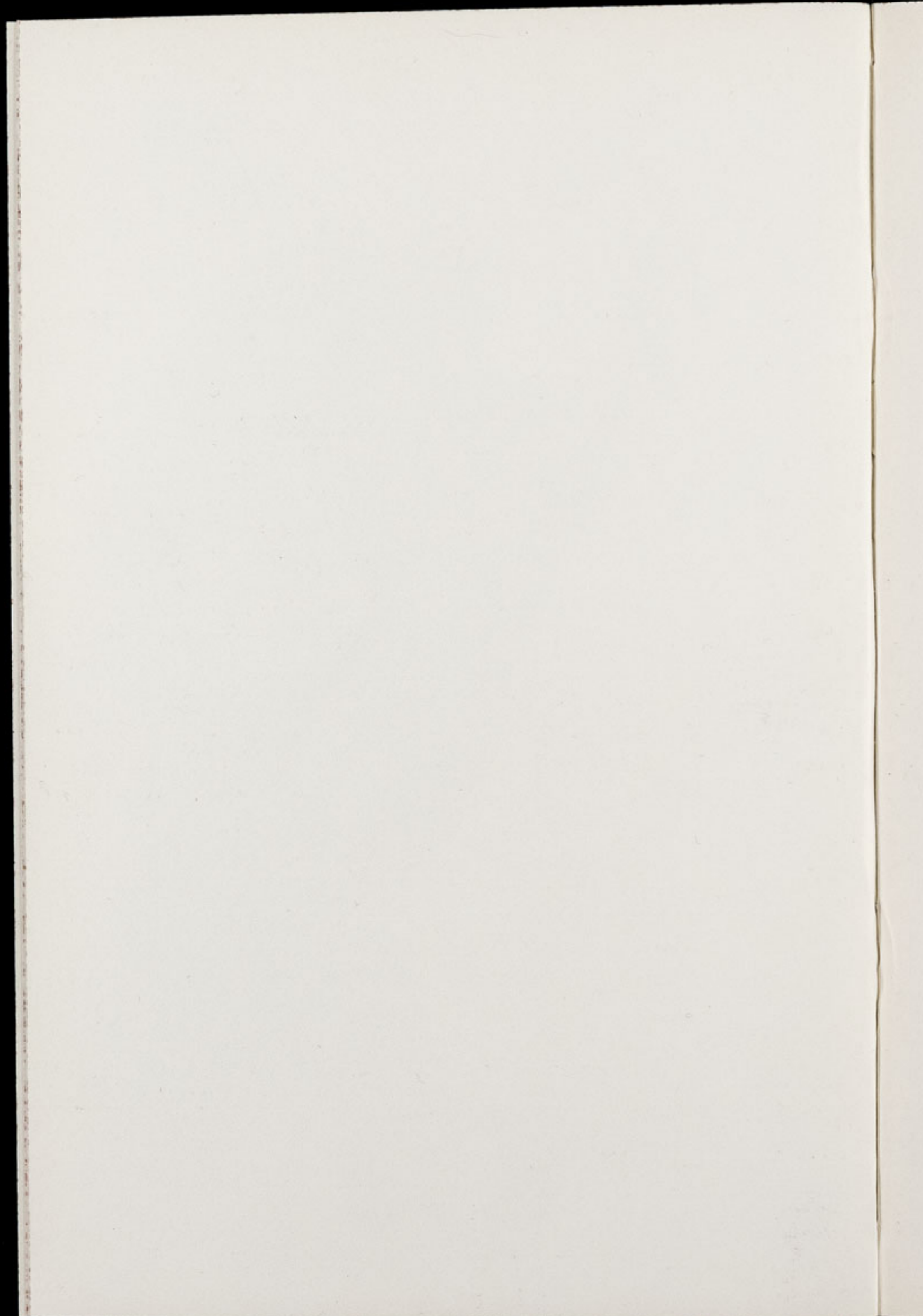




**CHESTER ZOO NEWS
AND GUIDE**

July 1969

Price 1/-



The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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COVER: This month's cover shows one of our Beavers. For more details see page 10.

By Courtesy of J. E. Rackham (Photography) Ltd.

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ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

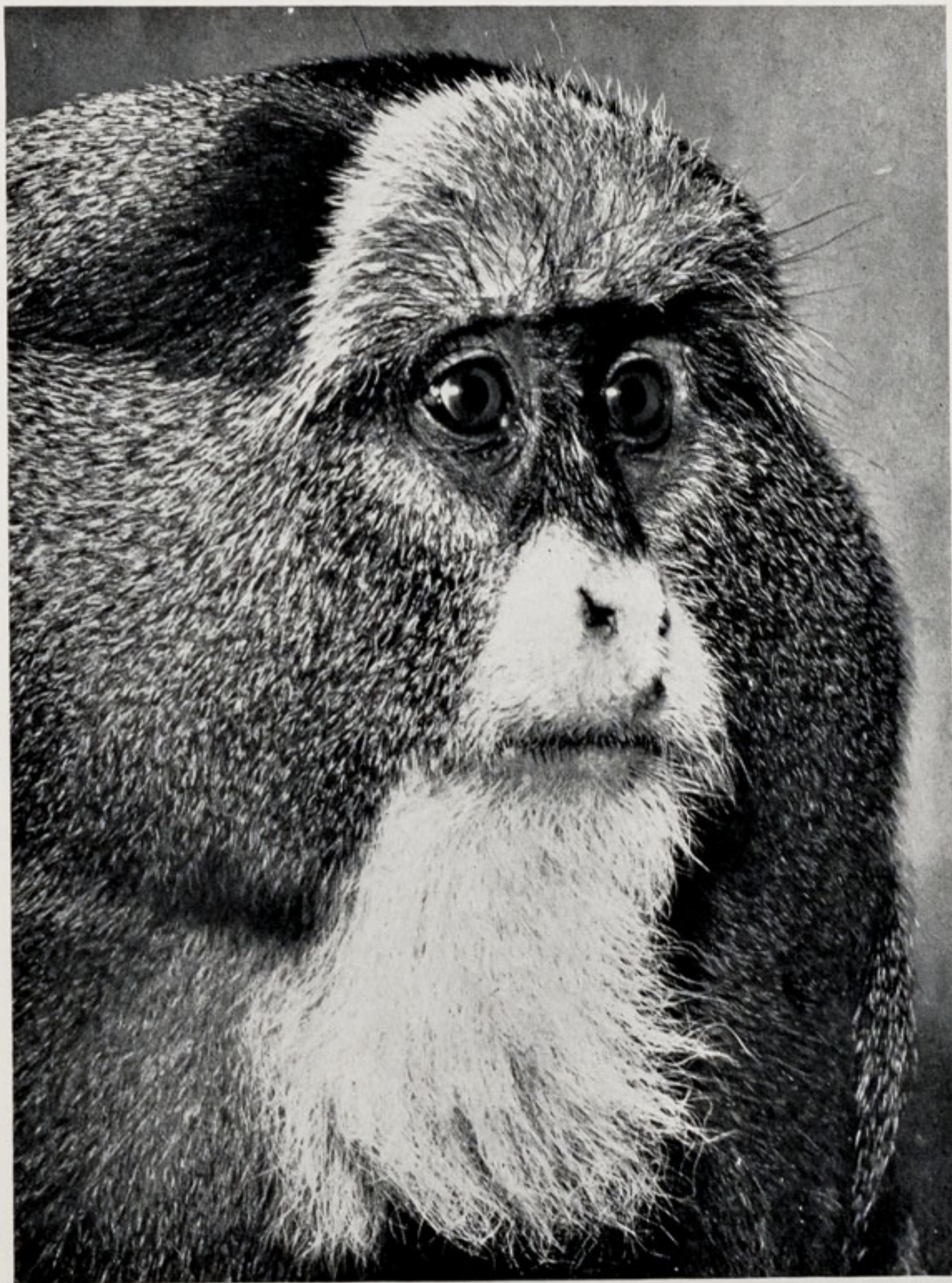
The Monkey House is always popular especially among children and now it has two more attractions to offer, for a De Brazza and a Vervet Monkey have been born recently.

Vervet Monkeys seem to breed well at Chester for there have been several other successful births during the year. These Monkeys never grow very large and as one can imagine they are a fascinating exhibit when first born; they seem so tiny and frail, clinging desperately to the mother for security and giving hasty distrustful glances to the general public.

De Brazza Monkeys always appear to be old before their time; this is due to their beards which give them the appearance of an ancient philosopher. Even the baby De Brazza Monkey born on 20th June is no exception for it is already showing signs of the white beard which typifies this species.

Owing to a shortage of accommodation due to a re-building scheme, Borasparken Zoo, Sweden have presented two Chimpanzees to Chester Zoo. Pia, the female is ten years old and Peter the male, is nine. They have lived together since they were young, so the decision was made not to separate them. At the moment they are sharing an enclosure at the Chimpanzee House and to all appearances have settled in very well.

A truly touching sight is the Siamang Gibbon and the young Crab Eating Macaque which arrived at Chester on the 27th June. These two Monkeys were shipped to England from Sumatra and during the journey became the most intimate of friends. The Gibbon is the larger of the two animals and continually protects the smaller Macaque. If the Gibbon senses any sign of danger it will clasp the Crab Eating Macaque in its arms, exactly as a mother would protect her child.



DE BRAZZA MONKEY

E. Kirkland, F.R.P.S.

At the moment they are being left together as obviously it would upset them to be separated. It is very difficult to ascertain whether they will remain together when they reach maturity. It is rare to find two varying species so fond of one another but whether they will fight among themselves at a later stage is a matter for conjecture.

Three Blesbok, unmistakable with their startling white faces are among the new arrivals at the Zoo this month. Two adult and one young female have been brought to the Zoo from the Quarantine Station at Birkenhead to join the adult pair already in the enclosure opposite the Mpila Snack-bar. The whole herd have settled down well and make a most attractive exhibit.

Two Sitatunga recently arrived from the Quarantine Station and have been housed in the Deer Paddocks behind the Monkey House. In their natural habitat these animals frequent marshy ground and as an adaptation to this environment, their hooves are elongated and the foot joints extremely flexible.

NEWS FROM VARIOUS SECTIONS

Tina, the young Chimpanzee born in 1967 has been separated from her mother Julie and has joined Wilson another Chimpanzee born in 1968, in the Animal Nursery. These two young Chimpanzees are an absolute pleasure to watch and some of their antics cause great hilarity. They both seem to accept their audience with nonchalance and play, eat and sleep in more or less total indifference to the faces peering at them through the glass.

The Capybara which is now occupying the pool previously used by the Penguins has been introduced to the Giant Anteaters in the adjoining pen. In the future we hope to house these two species together so that the Anteaters will be able to use the pool which is in sole possession of the Capybara at the moment.



SITATUNGA

J. Gwyn Jones

Max, Chester Zoo's Pygmy Hippopotamus has been joined by a female of the species from Whipsnade Zoo and it is hoped that a successful mating will occur. After initial hostilities, they have now settled down amicably and can be viewed in the outside enclosure at the far end of the Tropical House.

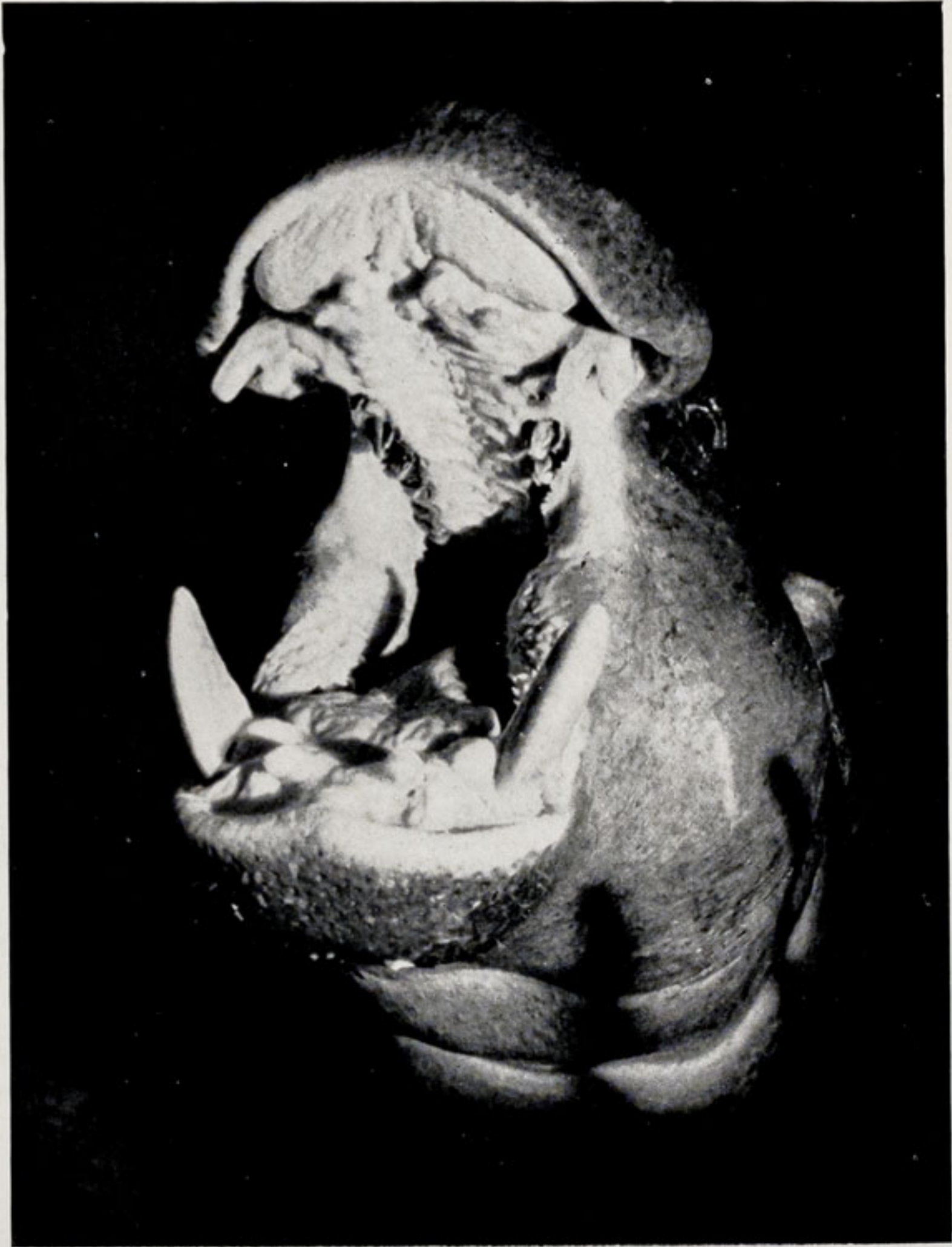
The two fawns in the Fallow Deer enclosure are arousing an enormous amount of attention and sympathy from visitors. These animals are so beautiful that one cannot help admiring them, especially as they still retain their soft, fluffy, spotted coats. At present the young deer are timid and intensely aware of the public gaze but it is hoped that as they become accustomed to being on view, they will grow in confidence.

A female Common Leopard and a male Black Panther have now been put together and it is hoped that in time they will produce young.

The Alpacas are hardly recognisable, having been shorn recently. This was undertaken by a Welsh sheep shearer who completed the task relatively quickly and without complications. Having lost their thick and rather matted woollen coats, one can now appreciate their delicacy of form.

Ferdinand the Bison will long be remembered at Chester Zoo for his wonderful 'character'. After his death eighteen months ago, the Bison Paddock was devoid of a male and this problem has only just been resolved by the introduction of a male from Woburn Park. One can easily recognise him as he is not only the largest, but also the darkest coloured of the herd. It is doubtful whether he will become as notorious as Ferdinand but he is settling in well with the other Bison and it is hoped that eventually they will breed.

The two Lowland Gorillas, Jason and Gogal have recently developed some rather delinquent tendencies, such as throwing



PYGMY HIPPO

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

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
- 13a. Kiosk
14. NORTH ENTRANCE
15. AQUARIUM
16. Push Chairs and Wheel Chairs
- 17.† Parrot House
18. APE HOUSE No. 2
19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP
20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
21. TOILETS
- 21a. Tuatara House
22. Peccaries
23. Waterbus Halt
24. Birds of Prey Aviary
25. Birds of Prey Aviary
26. Owls
27. Jackal and Hyena Enclosures
28. Wolverines
29. Porcupines and Raccoons
30. Coypus
31. Beavers
32. Giraffe House

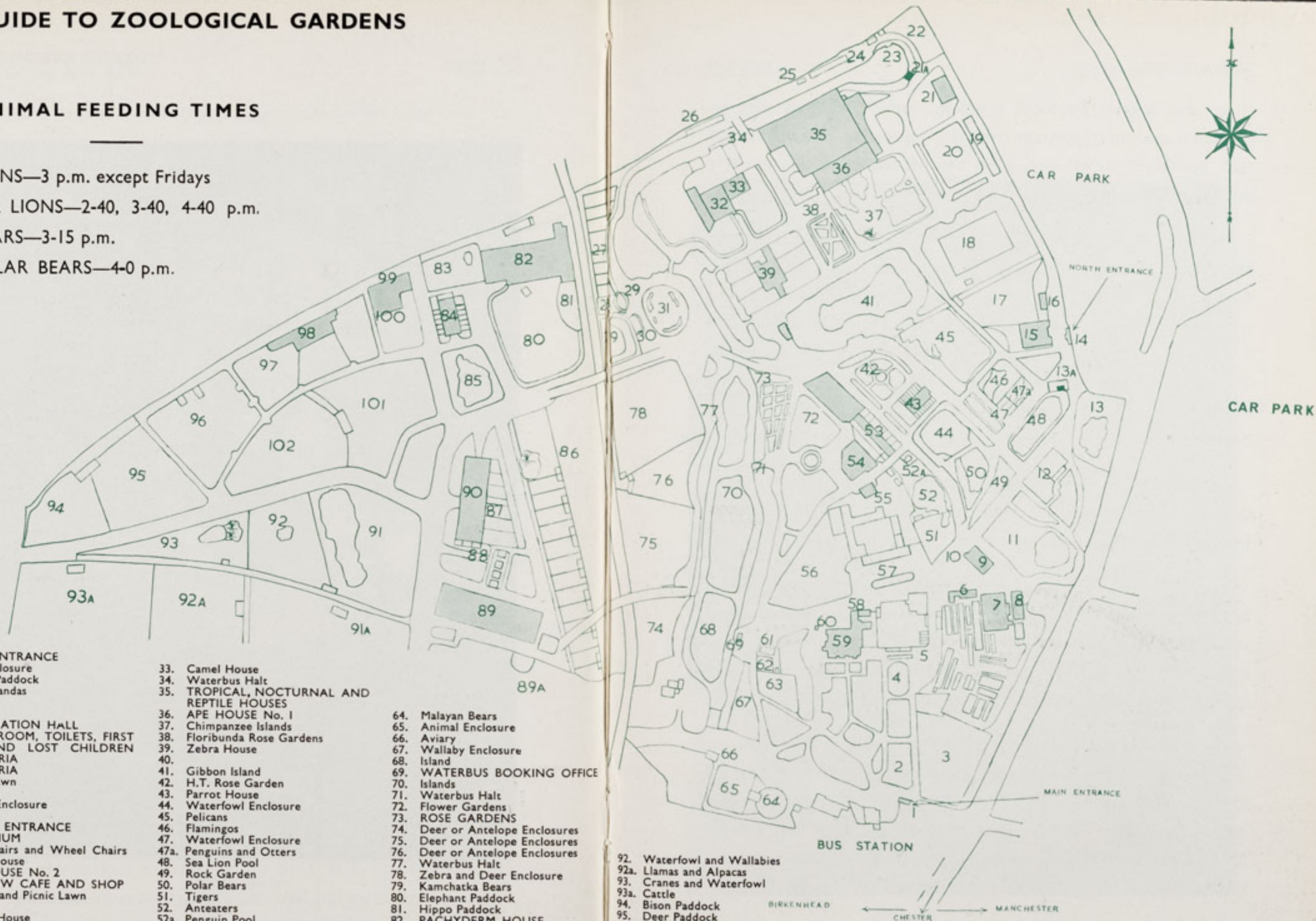
33. Camel House
34. Waterbus Halt
35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES
36. APE HOUSE No. 1
37. Chimpanzee Islands
38. Floribunda Rose Gardens
39. Zebra House
- 40.
41. Gibbon Island
42. H.T. Rose Garden
43. Parrot House
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Pelicans
46. Flamingos
47. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 47a. Penguins and Otters
48. Sea Lion Pool
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Tigers
52. Anteaters
- 52a. Penguin Pool
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 Enclosure
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 Enclosure
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Antelope and Cattle
87. Stork Enclosures
88. Monkey Enclosures
89. Cat House
- 89a. Jaguars
90. MONKEY HOUSE
91. Cranes and Waterfowl
- 91a. Highland Cattle

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.



stones and begging for food. Jason particularly seems to gain an enormous amount of pleasure from stone throwing, as a member of staff discovered to his cost when the windscreen of his car was damaged by a flying missile !

Earlier this year Fyffe Robinson the television interviewer visited Chester Zoo. As a result an interview with Mr. Mottershead, the Zoo Director, was featured in a BBC 2 programme on Zoos. The conversation was conducted on one of the water buses, so that one had a very interesting view of the Zoo, whilst listening to the discussion. The fact that Chester Zoo is constantly expanding was mentioned and this is endorsed by the emblem of the North of England Zoological Society, showing a Beaver with "*Always Building*" as the motto.

Naturally, as Beavers play such an important part on the correspondence and documents of the Society, the Zoo would be incomplete without specimens of these animals.

The Beaver is one of the largest of all rodents, using its tail both as a means of propulsion and as a warning device. When sensing danger the animal's immediate reaction is to slap its tail against the surface of the water as it dives. The home or lodge is made of twigs and branches cemented together with mud.

The Beaver pool is situated near the Kamchatka Bear enclosure and into this a large number of logs and many branches of trees are thrown and the Beavers are left to do their own building. There are at least two lodges which the Beavers have made; daily they dam the flow of water which runs through their enclosure and the keeper has to break this down, otherwise the beavers would escape.

One of our pair of Sarus Cranes laid an egg; unfortunately it has proved to be infertile but the male and female are still displaying. Next year we hope to be successful with this species.



JASON AND GOGAL, OUR TWO LOWLAND GORILLAS

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

A young Lion and two young Lionesses have recently arrived from Borasparken Zoo, Sweden. When they have finished their quarantine it is hoped to establish another pride to take the place of our lions which although in excellent condition are getting on in years and are certainly too old to introduce to new stock.

We are now certain that 'Noelle' the Mountain Gorilla has had a false pregnancy and she is once again with her mate. Noelle has shown all the symptoms of pregnancy and has succeeded in fooling us all. Unfortunately it was not possible to X-ray her. We are hoping she will soon come in season again and that mating will take place.

BIRD NOTES

A most attractive exhibit at Chester Zoo is the Flamingo enclosure. This consists of a pool, fringed with willows. During June four Rosy Flamingos joined those originally in the enclosure and the sight of this flock of birds standing in their pool is most spectacular. As their name implies, Rosy Flamingos are a delicate pink in colour but in order to retain this colouration in captivity it is necessary for a special colour food to be given as part of their diet.

Chester Zoo's once lone Humboldt's Penguin now has a mate and they can be seen in the Penguin Pool, together with the Rock-hopper and Jackass Penguins. The Humboldt's Penguins' black and white markings are less distinct than those of the Jackass Penguins.

Recently there has been an extremely interesting hybrid hatching in the aviaries. A Pennant X Barnard has bred with a female Port Lincoln Parrakeet and their offspring having left the nesting box, can now be seen flying freely in the aviaries.

Although Louisiade Lorikeets take readily to captivity, breeding



FLAMINGO ISLAND

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

is a rare occurrence and in consequence the successful hatching of a chick at Chester Zoo is of great importance. This young bird has now left its nestbox and seems to be thriving in the Temperate Bird House.

At the present time there are two broods of Lesser Snow Geese to be seen in their paddock opposite the Bison enclosure. These Geese can be seen in two colour phases, one is pure white, the other predominantly dark bluish-grey. These Geese breed in arctic North America and north-eastern Siberia, wintering in the southern United States and in Asia southwards to Japan. In North America nearly all the Blue phase Geese winter on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, whereas the white predominate in California, though some are found on the Gulf coasts.

THE NEW FLIGHT AVIARIES AND PARROT HOUSE

The walk-through aviary at present under construction on a site adjoining the New Ape House will prove eventually to be one of the most unusual of the enclosures in the Zoo.

One will be able to view the birds from the aviary itself and from the Ape House. This aviary will be covered with wire and suspended by cables with very few centre supports. It will be landscaped with rivulets and miniature waterfalls, the birds flying in complete freedom.

A secondary view of this aviary will be obtained from the covered walk running through the New Ape House. From this point one will be able to look down on the birds and watch them as they fly amongst the tops of the trees.

The New Parrot House is of unconventional design for there are no straight lines of cages as are usually seen in this type of structure.

The building itself is mainly of concrete and sandstone and will be roofed with a translucent material which will enable the sunlight to penetrate. All cages will be set at angles so that visitors will be able to see the birds both in their inside quarters and in the flights in the open air. There will be an uninterrupted view of the aviary from one end to the other across a central flower bed. Every enclosure will be provided with tropical vegetation growing freely to simulate the surroundings of the birds' natural habitat.

Ample space has been allocated for the kitchens where the varied diets of the Parrots, Macaws and Cockatoos will be prepared.

Although there will be various species of birds in the enclosures it will be necessary to ensure that Parrots, Macaws and Cockatoos are properly confined as they are most destructive birds and need strong wire netting around their cages to prevent them from escaping.

AQUARIUM NEWS

Sea Horses are among the latest arrivals in the Aquarium and have been placed in a quarantine tank, as a precaution against any disease which may be transmitted.

New Piranha have arrived during the past month but because they are carnivorous, cannot be accommodated with other types of fish.

The number of marine fish in the Aquarium was increased by the addition of two species of Damsel Fish; these are being fed on white worms, daphnia and opossum shrimps.

The Monodactyls and Scats have grown so much during the past six months that more spacious accommodation has had to be provided.

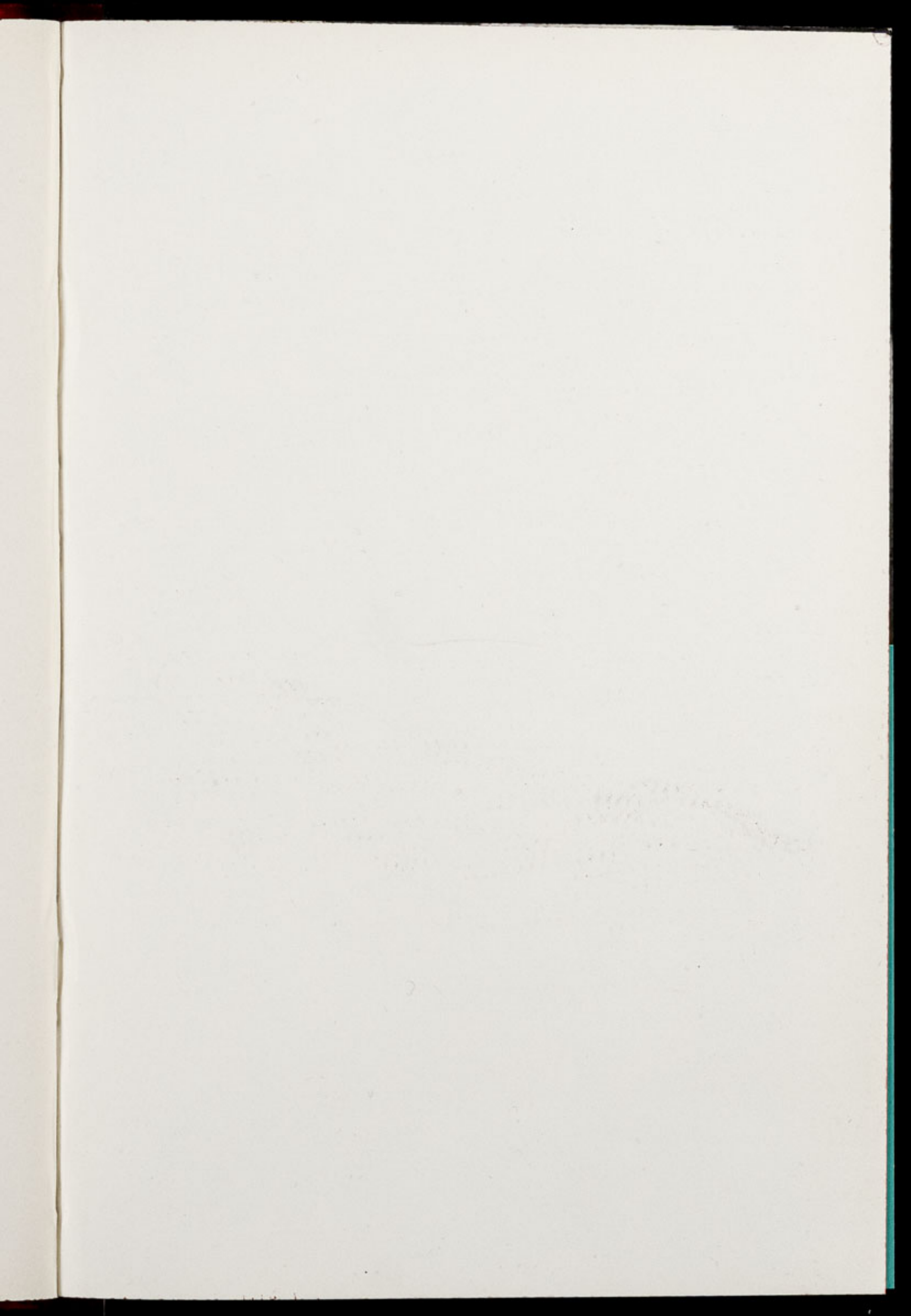
THE NURSERIES

Chester Zoo is renowned for the great beauty of its carefully laid out flower beds which give continual colour throughout the year. The recent spell of perfect weather has encouraged a large number of people to visit the Zoo and has enabled them to appreciate the grounds which are truly magnificent at the present time.

Once again there is a wonderful display of flowers in the gardens. This is especially true of the area in front of the Fountain Restaurant which is ablaze with colour. The Rose bushes which are in bloom throughout the Zoo are arousing a great deal of interest amongst gardening enthusiasts.

When one sees such a wonderful display it is difficult for the average person to envisage the enormous amount of work that is necessary to achieve such success with plants. Work in the nurseries is continuous for as soon as one season's flowers have terminated, the next season's must be ready for planting. There are two main planting periods which take place in October and in May or June. In October all the summer plants are removed. Meanwhile, spring flowers such as Pansies, Polyanthus and a large variety of bulbs are planted ready to bloom the following season. After the spring blooming they in turn are replaced once more by the summer flowers, which have been in the propagating house during the winter.

The nurseries, like the Zoological Gardens are expanding continually and have all the facilities for forcing the young plants. In the propagating house there are sprinklers working almost continually so that plants are gradually hardened off to enable them to withstand transplanting.



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