

GUIDE TO THE GARDENS  
OF  
THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF LONDON.

*Fifty-fourth Edition*

CORRECTED ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT OF THE GARDENS,

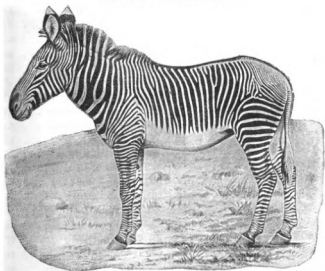
BY

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THE QUEEN'S ZEBRA (see p. 60).

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AND AT THE SOCIETY'S GARDENS IN THE REGENT'S PARK.

1900.

the localities they visit. Their flight is excessively graceful ; and as the tail is generally expanded in rising, the brilliant colours of the side-feathers make a most striking and attractive display.

The **UNDULATED GRASS-PARRAKEET**, more generally known by the native name of "*Betcherrygah*," is easily distinguished by its breast of lovely green, and back delicately banded with black and yellow. It is one of the most universally diffused species of the Australian Parrots, and makes periodical visits to all the settled districts, probably when the droughts of the interior render its usual haunts untenable from the scarcity of water. This exquisite little bird differs essentially from all other Parrots in its faculty of song : it warbles a low, continuous and not unlively melody, something like the strain of the English Whitethroat. The natural breeding-place of the Undulated Parrakeet is the hollow arm of some decaying tree ; but it accommodates itself to circumstances with great facility, and if turned loose in a room will soon excavate a nesting-hole in a brick wall. It breeds in confinement very readily, if properly treated ; and is certainly one of the most interesting, as well as one of the most beautiful, cage-birds hitherto known. The first living specimen was brought from Australia by Mr. Gould, on his return to England in 1840 ; but since that period a thousand pairs have sometimes been landed in a single venture.

In addition to the Parrots, other birds of extreme interest will be found in this house, among which the **TOUCANS**, **HORNBILLS**, and **TOURACOES** are conspicuous.

There is also at one end of the house a series of **FINCHES** and **WEAVER-BIRDS** arranged in pairs in separate cages, which it is hoped to make more extensive.

## 56. THE ELEPHANT HOUSE.

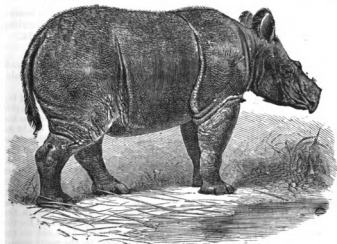
This large building has been constructed to contain the Society's series of Elephants and Rhinoceroses. These are as follows :—

**The African Elephant.** (*Elephas africanus*.)—The only present representative of this species is a male (*Jingo*) obtained in 1882. The African Elephant is usually larger in size than the Asiatic species. The head is rounded, the front is convex instead of concave, the ears are much larger, and the general physiognomy is quite different from that of the Indian Elephant. The African Elephant is not now known to be used in a tamed state, although there is no doubt that the Carthaginians availed themselves of the services of this species in former days, and the Elephants exhibited in the Roman Arenas are believed to have been African. The tusks of the adult males of this species are very large, and of great value. They are imported to England in large quantities from different parts of the African continent, in the unexplored interior of which this huge animal is still met with in abundance.

**The Indian Elephant.** (*Elephas indicus*.)—This well-known animal is represented by a fine female brought home by the Prince of Wales from his Indian tour in 1875-6. She was born on the 23rd of April, 1871, in the Kheddah of H.H. the Maharajah of Bulrampore. Alongside her will be found a young male of the same species recently acquired by the Society, and said to have been imported from Burmah.

**The Indian Rhinoceros.** (*Rhinoceros unicornis*.)—The larger

now known to be nearly extinct, except perhaps in some of the more remote districts of Mashona-Land. No more valuable contribution could be made to the Society's collection than a specimen of any sort of African Rhinoceros.



HAIRY-EARED RHINOCEROS. (See p. 54.)

### 57. THE DEER SHEDS.

In this row of sheds are placed a series of the smaller deer, the larger forms being accommodated in the Wapiti House (p. 39). Among them at present are examples of the Panolia Deer (*Cervus eldi*), the Philippine Deer (*C. philippinus*), and the Hog Deer of India (*C. porcinus*).

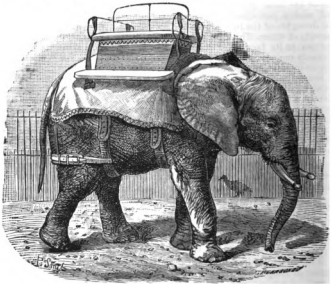
### 58. THE BEAVER POND.

This pond and the surrounding inclosure are usually tenanted by a pair or more of Canadian and European Beavers (*Castor canadensis* and *C. fiber*). The sagacity and social polity of these animals are well known, and every one has read of the wonderful works they execute in preparing their dams and houses of earth and sticks, and in cutting down trees. Good examples of their handiwork are to be seen in this spot.

### 59. THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

This is the residence of the Officer of the Zoological Society who has the immediate superintendence of the Gardens. The Society's headquarters and principal place of business are at No. 3, Hanover Square, W., where all communications should be addressed to the "Secretary."

Indian Rhinoceros, with a single horn on its nose, is found in Assam and Nepal, in the great forest district which fringes the base of the Himalayas. It is a huge unwieldy creature, covered with a thick skin, which lies in massive folds on different parts of the body. It is purely herbivorous, and quite inoffensive in a state of nature, unless attacked.



JINGO. (See p. 53.)

### The Hairy-eared Rhinoceros. (*R. lasiotis*.)

The two-horned Rhinoceroses of Asia are restricted to Eastern India, the Malay Peninsula and the larger Sunda Islands. The large adult female Hairy-eared Rhinoceros, "Begum," as she is called, was caught near Chittagong, in Bengal, by some officers employed in the *Kheddah* department of the Indian Army—that is, on the capture of Wild Elephants. In January, 1872, she was brought to England and purchased by the Society. The young male, said to be hybrid between the Hairy-eared and Sumatran forms of this Rhinoceros, was received in exchange from the Zoological Gardens of Calcutta.

The present specimens of Rhinoceros are all Asiatic. But two species of these animals, both with two horns, are also found in Africa. Of one of them, the so-called Black Rhinoceros (*R. bicornis*), a fine example, captured near Cassala, in Upper Nubia, was obtained in 1868, and lived 23 years in this House. The so-called White Rhinoceros (*R. simus*) is a much rarer species, and in spite of many endeavours made, and large rewards offered, it has never been found possible to obtain an example of it. Indeed this huge animal, formerly abundant in the Cape Colony, is