

THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS OF EUROPE

Their History and Chief Features

BY

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CONTENTS

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS IN FRANCE.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. JARDIN DES PLANTES, PARIS - - - -	1
II. JARDIN D'ACCLIMATATION, PARIS - - - -	8
III. JARDIN ZOOLOGIQUE, MARSEILLES - - - -	26
IV. JARDIN ZOOLOGIQUE, NICE-CIMIEZ - - - -	32

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS IN HOLLAND.

V. KONINKLIJK ZOOLOGISCH GENOOSTCHAP, AMSTERDAM -	36
VI. THE GARDENS OF THE ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL SOCIETY, THE HAGUE - - - -	45
VII. ROTTERDAMSCH E DIERGAARDE, ROTTERDAM - -	48

ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN IN DENMARK.

VIII. ZOOLOGISK HAVE, COPENHAGEN - - - -	55
--	----

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS IN BELGIUM.

IX. THE GARDENS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ZOOLOGY, ANTWERP - - - - -	58
X. JARDIN ZOOLOGIQUE, GHENT - - - -	63
XI. JARDIN ZOOLOGIQUE, LIÈGE - - - -	66

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS IN GERMANY.

XII. ZOOLOGISCHER GARTEN, AIX-LA-CHAPELLE - -	67
XIII. ZOOLOGISCHER GARTEN, COLOGNE - - - -	68
XIV. ZOOLOGISCHER GARTEN, ELBERFELD - - - -	80
XV. ZOOLOGISCHER GARTEN, DÜSSELDORF - - - -	82

CHAPTER	PAGE
XVI. THE WESTPHALIAN ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, MÜNSTER -	86
XVII. ZOOLOGISCHER GARTEN, HANOVER - - -	90
XVIII. ZOOLOGISCHER GARTEN, HAMBURG - - -	96
XIX. ZOOLOGISCHER GARTEN, BERLIN - - -	104
XX. ZOOLOGISCHER GARTEN, HALLE - - -	117
XXI. ZOOLOGISCHER GARTEN, LEIPZIG - - -	119
XXII. ZOOLOGISCHER GARTEN, DRESDEN - - -	125
XXIII. ZOOLOGISCHER GARTEN, Breslau - - -	131
XXIV. ZOOLOGISCHER GARTEN, POSEN - - -	139
XXV. ZOOLOGISCHER GARTEN, KÖNIGSBERG - - -	141
XXVI. ZOOLOGISCHER GARTEN, STUTTGART - - -	146
XXVII. ZOOLOGISCHER GARTEN, FRANKFORT-ON-MAIN -	151

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS IN RUSSIA.

XXVIII. ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, ST. PETERSBURG - - -	161
XXIX. ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, MOSCOW - - -	164

ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN IN HUNGARY.

XXX. ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, BUDA-PESTH - - -	168
--	-----

ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN IN AUSTRIA.

XXXI. ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, VIENNA - - -	172
---------------------------------------	-----

ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN IN SWITZERLAND.

XXXII. ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, BASLE - - -	175
---------------------------------------	-----

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS IN THE BRITISH ISLES.

XXXIII. ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, LONDON - - -	179
XXXIV. ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, CLIFTON - - -	196
XXXV. ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, MANCHESTER - - -	201
XXXVI. ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, DUBLIN - - -	212
XXXVII. CARL HAGENBECK, THE KING OF ANIMAL IMPORTERS	232

THE
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS OF EUROPE

CHAPTER I

JARDIN DES PLANTES, PARIS : DIRECTOR, PROFESSOR
MILNE EDWARDS

THIS Garden, the father of Zoological Gardens, is the oldest of the Zoological Gardens of Europe.

Many of the greatest naturalists have been connected with the Jardin des Plantes, and have studied within its gates.

The botanical portion is more than one hundred years older than the zoological. It was founded in 1626 by Louis XIII., who bought a plot of uncultivated ground in Saint-Victor, twenty-four acres in extent, and laid out a flower-garden and built a little greenhouse upon it. Fagon, the King's doctor, Gaston of Orleans, Colbert, and Tournefort all helped it along, and caused the Garden to grow in extent and popularity.

A museum of natural history was established, and eleven professors appointed in mineralogy, botany, two courses of zoology, human and animal anatomy, geology, chemistry, etc. A library was formed in

the museum. On the death of the Duc d'Orleans in 1660, Colbert bought for the library the celebrated paintings of flowers on vellum by Robert.

In 1730 the Garden became neglected, but in 1732 M. Buffon became Director, and from that moment success was assured for them. He was well backed by M. Daubenton. Every year the Garden was improved, the old houses were demolished and new ones built. The whole of the ground was put under cultivation. Trees were planted, and the Garden extended to the bank of the Seine. Valuable gifts of plants, minerals and zoological specimens were received from the Academy of Sciences, Comte d'Angevilliers, Chinese missionaries, the King of Poland and M. Bougainville, who brought back from his voyage round the world a magnificent collection of animals and birds. Whilst Director of the Garden, Buffon wrote his *chef-d'œuvre*—a natural history—and after a splendid career he died in 1788.

Bernardin de Saint-Pierre was the next Director. In 1794 the large and valuable collection of the Palais de Versailles was offered to the Jardin des Plantes, and accepted on its behalf by Bernardin de Saint-Pierre. This collection contained five specimens which had never been seen in Paris before—namely, a quagga, now unhappily extinct, a hartebeest, a crested pigeon from the Isle of Banga, an Indian rhinoceros and a lion from Senegal, which latter had as a companion a dog, with which it lived on terms of the greatest friendship. The remainder of the collection at Versailles had been pillaged by the mob in the French Revolution.

and in front of them is a duck-pond well stocked with ducks and swans. Next we find an ostrich and cassowary house, built in the Eastern style. Here I quite mistook the grunt of the ostrich for the dull roar or grunt of the lion, as I had often done before in the African jungle. Close at hand is a fine lofty bird-of-prey aviary. Outside nearly all the cages were



KANGAROO.

(Photo by Ottomar Anschütz, Berlin.)

coloured pictures of the birds, with a map of the world below them showing the distribution of each. Passing a small seal grotto and thatched house for llamas, we come to the Palais Egyptien, or elephant and giraffe house. The paintings on the outside walls represent the natives of foreign parts coming to offer to the city

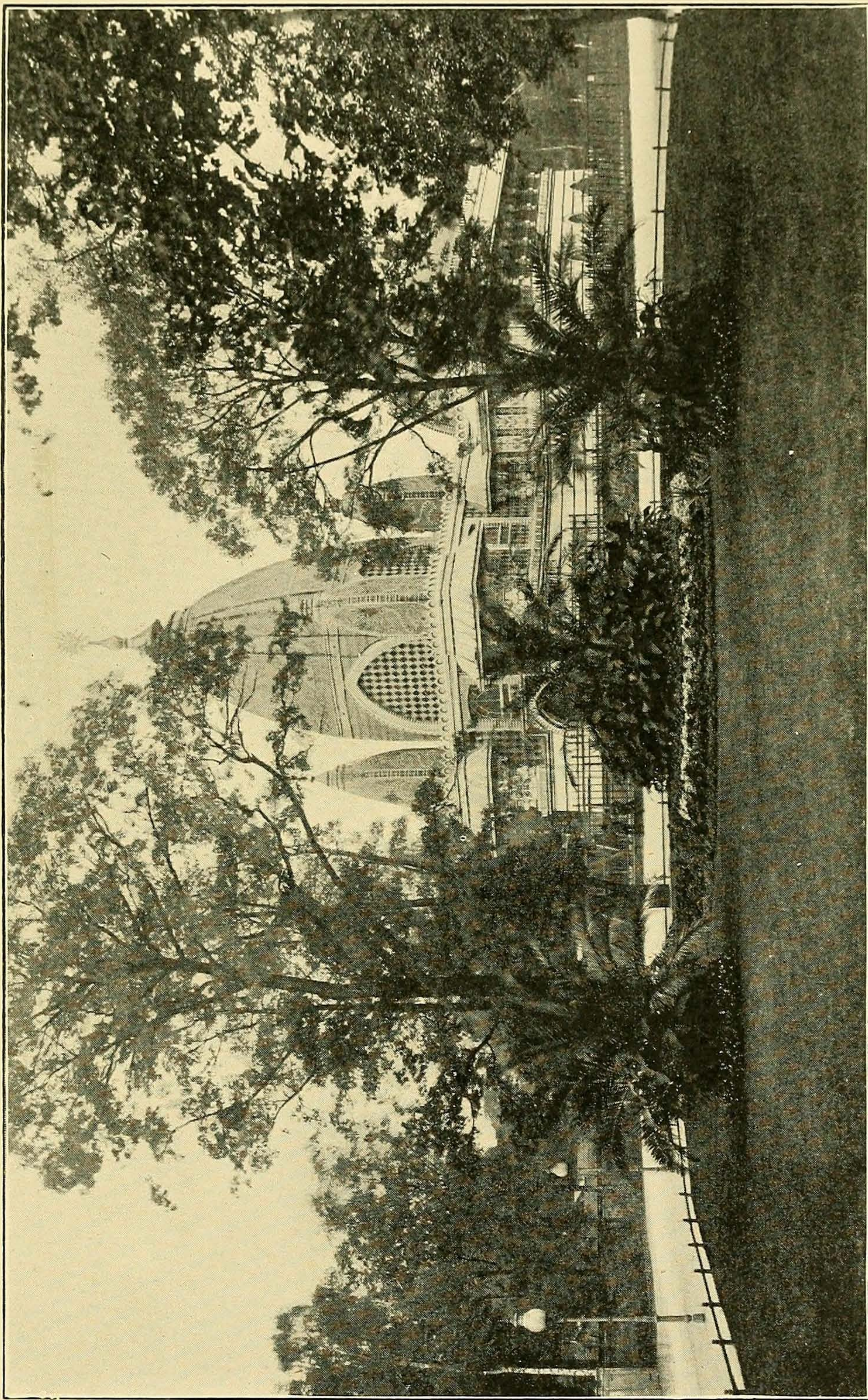
of Antwerp examples of the most characteristic animals of their country.

This house contained four giraffes : one born in 1871, one in 1873, one in 1875, and one in 1876 (in 1897 the Society refused an offer of 25,000 francs for one) ; some camels, common and Burchell's zebras, Indian and Sumatran rhinoceroses, and two Indian elephants. There is a stuffed giraffe, which died in 1898, after having been in the menagerie eighteen years, and the skeleton of an Indian elephant, which lived in the Gardens from 1852 to 1880.

The bear dens are next to be seen, near a duck-pond, upon which were swimming hundreds of ducks. There are four polar bears housed near here. Passing the wapiti and moose yards, we come to a large aviary, outside which is a monument to Darwin. More than 100,000 pairs of birds are annually bought and sold in these Gardens.

Next in order is a large children's playground, replete with swings for their amusement. There is a very picturesque rockery for wild sheep and aurochs, and American bison enclosures backed with rockwork.

A most imposing lion house is now encountered, after passing through a fine sculptured entrance. It will be found very roomy inside, and it contains a large number of dens, besides three large circular open-air cages. In one of the latter were housed no less than seven lion-cubs, all about six months old. Opposite the outside cages were a couple of brindled gnus, a pair of leucoryx antelopes, and an *Oryx beisa*, grazing in paddocks. In a house close by were lodged a pair of full-grown hippopotami and a baby born in the Gardens.



ELEPHANT HOUSE, BERLIN.

a wild-sheep rockery, we come to the monkey house, which, however, is comparatively small and disappointing. In front of some pretty beds of tulips is a truly magnificent elephant house, built in imitation of a Hindoo temple, the domes painted in yellow, brown, and blue. In the centre of this palatial house is placed the skeleton of a full-grown elephant. The ceiling is supported by huge columns, with two carved elephant-heads on the top of each. The house contains three Indian elephants, two African elephants, one Indian rhino, and some tapirs. Huge sliding-doors lead out into large open-air paddocks fitted with baths. Behind the elephant house are the wild-swine sheds.

We now come to another finely decorated and well-constructed house—the ostrich house. It is painted inside and out with large, ancient Egyptian figures of men and birds. At one end of the interior is a very realistic painting of two huge stone Egyptian figures in a sitting position, bathed in a gorgeous sunset. The columns and the ceiling in this house should also be noticed. It contains a good collection of ostriches and cassowaries. The next house with large water-tank contains two hippopotami. Opposite a high tower (entrance fee ten pfennig, which goes towards the animals' food) is a very long line of pheasant pens, all prettily planted with tiny shrubs and trees.

Passing a large llama and tahr rockery we come to the antelope house, built in an oval shape with minarets, the huge balls at the top covered with gilt. It contains some rare animals. There are water-buck, harnessed antelope, inyala, several *Oryx leucoryx*, two addax, a beautiful pair of giraffes (South African form),

and almost intellectual. Gigantic pythons are here seen, lolling on the warm sands or bathing in the water-tanks. There are also enormous lizards and iguanas. Next to this house are the hyænas, wolves, jackals, and ice foxes, the latter even in spring keeping their white coats. In 1890 half a dozen wolves were born in the Garden.

Passing wild-sheep and goat enclosures, we find in house No. 10 the German native birds on one side, prettily arranged in cages framed with tree-cork, and on the other side of the house are the ostriches and cassowaries, with outside cages. House No. 11 is an extraordinarily well-arranged structure of iron and glass, containing parrots and small tropical birds on one side, and on the other the wading-birds, with outside cages. The exotic-bird collection is contained in 120 small cages and many large cages, forming one of the richest collections in Germany. In 1901 there were exhibited in this house such varieties as the Oriental roller (*Eurystomus orientalis*), Leache's laughing kingfisher (*Dacelo Leachii*), and many others of equal value.

We now come to an unusually good collection of wild swine, including a pair of African wart hogs. Opposite these sheds are a number of extremely well-laid-out flower-beds; in fact, the whole Garden is rich in plants, flowers, and shady trees.

The elephant house, with large open-air enclosures, no longer contains 'Betsy,' the great female elephant, which has just died; whilst another male Indian elephant has been killed, as he was becoming dangerous. To-day only 'Fanny' (who came ten years ago), and a small African elephant, just acquired, are to be found.

There is a fine Indian rhinoceros, his attendant keeper on the occasion of my visit being busily engaged in cleaning his hide and searching for ticks, much to the delight of the great pachyderm. There was a pair of hippopotami in a large bath, both females, which were born in Antwerp. They were presented by M. Conrad. 'Binding' arrived when quite young, and soon developed into a great mass of flesh and fat; and whenever 'Elizabeth' opens her mouth wide, everybody falls backwards in astonishment.

In another enclosure are two American tapirs. We next come to a really imposing and lofty bird-of-prey aviary of very large proportions, and then to the bear castle, with ivy running all over it. In a neighbouring tank are some green cormorants, perched on little rocks. Close by is a large enclosure for storks, cranes, stilts, gulls, herons, and flamingoes.

The herons here, contrary to their usual habit, build their nests on the ground and rear young ones every year. These birds are allowed full liberty, for their wings are never cut, but they are, in spite of this, very punctual to meals. One went away with the winter migration, but came back at supper-time the following spring. Here is to be seen the Goliath heron (*Ardea goliath*), rarely seen in confinement.

We now come to the antelope house, which contains quite a large herd of black buck. I counted ten of these animals in one enclosure, including two young ones. There is an *Oryx leucoryx*, an *Oryx beisa*, a number of water-bucks, nylgai, and some brindled gnus, which have bred here several times. There is an anoa from the Celebes, born in the Garden, and a half-grown

CHAPTER XXXI

ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, VIENNA : INSPECTOR, A. KRAUS

THIS Garden, which belongs to the Emperor of Austria, is situated in the grounds of the Emperor's summer residence at Schönbrunn, an environ of Vienna. No one is permitted to take photographs in it.

After passing through the palace-gates, turn to the right, and a short walk through beautifully kept gardens brings you to the Zoological Garden, in which there is a fine collection of animals and birds. The first cages are occupied by goats and sheep, forming a large representative collection. One black-and-white domestic-looking sheep, which I did not recognise, and which, unfortunately, had no name on its pen, was almost as high at the withers as a fallow buck. There was also a herd of the very curious, fat-tailed, white sheep with black heads from Somaliland. Keeping to the left, we encounter no less than three lion houses, all well filled. Next comes a monkey house, with large outside cages of novel construction. The antelope houses have open-air paddocks close by them, into which the animals are driven through railed-off passages.

There were nylgai, gnus, *Oryx beisa*, and the rarely-seen *Oryx addax*. One seldom sees the hartebeest

antelope in captivity. There are no fewer than eight different species of the genus *bubalis*, and they are amongst the most common of the antelopes of the plains. It is odd that they should be so seldom captured. When on the open plains of North-east Africa, I saw hundreds upon hundreds of 'Swayne's hartebeest,' but so far no specimen of this antelope has been seen alive in Europe. I never saw any very young calves, and my theory is that the cows, when about to give birth, retreat either into very thick bush or so far away from all caravan-tracks that they are seldom encountered. Another common African animal never seen in captivity is the African rhinoceros, which is much more plentiful than its cousin the Indian rhino, which, on the other hand, is frequently met with in captivity. It is, however, difficult to feed young rhinos. A baby one requires every day the milk of at least fourteen goats in full milk. A good few are caught, but seldom reach the coast alive, owing to underfeeding. You cannot overfeed an elephant or rhinoceros, and great cruelty is inflicted in some Gardens on the Continent by underfeeding these large pachyderms, some of the elephants being wretchedly thin and emaciated. In one case an enormous Indian elephant was receiving four pounds of wheat-cake only a day. No wonder he had turned into the savage brute he was.

But to return to the Vienna Garden. Opposite to a duck-pond were some beautifully built aviaries; in fact, all the houses in this Garden are good. Crane and ostrich pens follow, and then more aviaries for smaller birds of great number and variety.

CHAPTER XXXIII

GARDENS OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, LONDON

THIS Zoological Society was formed in 1826, and Sir Stamford Raffles was elected President, Mr. Joseph Sabine Treasurer, and Mr. Nicholas Vigors Secretary. The sum of £5,000 was appropriated for the Gardens in Regent's Park, the plans of which, prepared by Decimus Burton, were approved. In 1828 the Gardens and a Museum were opened to the public on payment.

The most important event of the year 1829 was the grant on March 27 of a charter to the Society by His Majesty King George IV. The Marquess of Lansdowne, Mr. Joseph Sabine, and Mr. Nicholas Vigors were named in it as the first President, Treasurer, and Secretary respectively of the incorporated Society. More land was acquired north of the Garden in Regent's Park, and a tunnel was built connecting the two gardens. The number of Fellows that year was 1,528, and 189,913 people visited the Gardens.

The principal works executed in 1830 were the laying out of the North Garden and the erection there of houses and sheds for deer, antelopes, zebras, ostriches, kangaroos, and swine. In the South Garden a pit with a pond was provided for the polar bear, and a den and pond were made for seals.

His Majesty King William IV. signified his pleasure to become the Patron of the Society, and presented to it all the animals belonging to the royal menagerie in Windsor Park. This collection included fourteen wapiti, seven zebus, two mountain zebras, two Burchell's zebras, and thirteen kangaroos, besides other animals and a valuable collection of birds.

In 1831 the King presented to the Society the collection of animals in the Tower. The armadillos bred in the Gardens. An elephant paddock and pond were erected.

In 1833 a parrot house was erected.

In 1834 an additional space of ten acres of ground along the south-western verge of the South Garden was acquired. Examples of twelve species of mammals and twenty-six species of birds were exhibited for the first time. Of the former the most important was an Indian rhinoceros, for which the sum of £1,050 was paid.

In 1835 a house was built for elephants and rhinoceros in the North Garden, near the spot where the present elephant house now stands. His Majesty the King presented to the Society a fine young Indian elephant.

On May 24, 1836, four giraffes (three males and a female) arrived at the Gardens in charge of M. Thibaut, who had obtained them for the Society in Kordofan. They were the origin of the famous herd which died out in 1881. Of the seventeen giraffes of this herd subsequently born in the Gardens, one was presented to the Dublin Society in 1844, five were sold at prices ranging from £150 to £450, and eleven died in the Gardens.

In 1836 a giraffe house was erected.

In 1837 Her Majesty Queen Victoria signified her pleasure to become Patroness of the Society. An orang-outang was purchased for £100, and a cage was put up for it.

On June 19, 1839, a young male giraffe was born, the first recorded instance of this species breeding in captivity, but it died nine days after.

On May 27, 1841, a young male giraffe was born, the first ever reared in captivity.

In 1843 a new carnivora terrace was completed. Jenny, the orang, died.

In 1844 a polar-bears' den and bath were erected.

In 1846 the largest of the giraffes died, having been upwards of eleven years in confinement.

In 1850 a young hippopotamus was presented to the Society by Abbas Pasha.

In 1851, by bequest from the late President, the Earl of Derby, the Society acquired the herd of elands (two males and three females) which was the origin of the Society's stock of this important animal.

In 1852 His Royal Highness Prince Albert was President. The drainage of the Gardens, begun in 1851, was completed. A python house, a chimpanzee house, and an aquatic vivarium were made. A Red River hog was obtained.

In 1854 the hippopotamus house, with a large bath and massive iron railings, was completed. The most important addition was the female hippopotamus, Adhela, presented by the Pasha of Egypt. The Society now possessed a pair of these huge pachyderms. These animals bred in 1872, and the female is still living (1902) in the Gardens.

In 1857 a collection of Himalayan pheasants arrived.

In 1859 Mr. (now Dr.) Philip Lutley Sclater, M.A., was elected secretary of the Society, and he still fills that onerous post with distinction to-day.

In 1861 the deer sheds in the North Garden were rebuilt, and the larger antelopes were removed to the new house in the South Garden. Two eland fawns were born, making a total of twenty since the bequest in 1851. On December 14 the Prince Consort, President of the Society, died at Windsor.

In 1862 Sir George Clark was elected President of the Society. A pheasantry and kangaroo sheds were built.

In 1863 cattle-sheds and a new monkey house were constructed.

In June, 1865, the first African elephant ever seen alive in England was received (in exchange for an Indian rhinoceros) from the Jardin des Plantes, Paris. This was the famous Jumbo, and in September a female of the same species (Alice) was purchased.

In 1866 a fire broke out in the giraffe house, which suffocated a female giraffe and her fawn. In the winter of 1866 a heavy snowstorm destroyed the covering of the pheasantry. The birds (many of which were worth £50 each) escaped into the park, but were mostly recovered.

In 1867 a young male walrus, brought to Dundee from Davis Straits by a steam whaler, was purchased, but did not live long.

The list of donors in 1868 was long, and was headed by the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh. An African two-horned rhinoceros, captured in Upper