

REPORT
BY THE
HONORARY COMMITTEE
FOR
Calcutta.
MANAGEMENT OF THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN.

FORWARDED BY ORDER
26 FEB 1908

FOR THE YEAR 1907-08.



Calcutta:
THE BENGAL SECRETARIAT BOOK DEPOT.
—
1908.

Name of animal.	Disease.	Treatment and diet.	Result.
Gayal ...	Distrochia ...	Stimulant with Extract Ergot Liquid ʒ iii.	Recovery.
Hippopotamus	Diarrhoea ...	Soda Bicarb. with milk and lime-water for two days.	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Bronchitis ..	Tinct. Camph. Co. ʒ ii. Spt. Ether Nitro. ʒ ss. Aqua Chloroform ʒ v. To be taken with warm water twice a day. Rum in drinking water.	Ditto.
Spotted Deer	Injury on the abdomen exposing the peritonium and the intestines.	Exposed parts reduced after antiseptic wash. Applied six sutures in the abdominal muscles and nine on the external skin. Dressed with iodoform and bandaged. Tinct. Opii ʒ ii. Spt. Ammon Aro. ʒ v. Spt Ether Nitro ʒ iv. Aqua ʒ viii.	Ditto.

COLLECTON OF ANIMALS.

The death of Mr. William Rutledge, the old and well-known dealer in wild animals of Calcutta, is much to be deplored in connexion with the collection of animals for the Garden. His experience and enterprise enabled him to obtain specimens from all parts of the world, particularly of the oriental region, and supply them to the Garden at

reasonable prices. Of late his business was not as prosperous as it had been during the time when the menagerie of His late Majesty the King of Oudh flourished at Garden Reach, but he continued as a dealer in wild animals till the last day of his life.

The management of the Garden was much indebted to Mr. Loëbell, of the Singapur Oil Mills, for his kindly help in obtaining a number of valuable animals from the Malayan Archipelago.

In spite of depressing circumstances, the small aviary built at the Royal Botanic Garden, Darjeeling, for the reception of birds, was maintained, and attempts to exploit Darjeeling and its neighbourhood for small mammals and birds were continued. Mr. Möller, Vice-Chairman, Darjeeling Municipality, who kindly looks after the aviary, complained that the want of a keeper trained to look after the feeding and care of the newly-captured specimens militated against the success of the experiment, and suggested that one might be sent from the Calcutta Garden. The suggestion is worth considering.

The obvious need of the Garden in respect to the collection of animals is a trained collector.

STORM OF JUNE 1907.

Considerable damages were done to the Garden by the storm of June 1907. A number of old trees were uprooted, and others had their branches torn off and were permanently disfigured. Shrubberies and borders were torn and smothered by the falling trees and branches, rendering it necessary

in many cases to replant them. A portion of the wild fowl house—an iron and wire structure—was completely wrecked and some other buildings suffered more or less seriously. The birds living in large flight cages and open enclosures had a very bad time of it during the two days the storm lasted, and casualties among them were not inconsiderable. Of the birds that breed in the Garden in a wild state the Barbets and Kingfishers suffered the most. Two of the nesting trees of the former were blown down, and the nesting holes of the *H. smyrnensis* flooded by the overflowing of the banks of the tanks.

ARDHYADAYA YOGA FESTIVAL.

As far as attendance is concerned, the Ardhyadaya Yoga festival might be considered an event of the year, as it contributed largely towards bringing up the total of the year to the figure of 504,397, which was greater than even that of 1906-07. To relieve the congestion of the people wanting admission crowding at the ordinary entrance gate, the emergency gate, with two extra turnstiles, were kept open during the two principal days of the festival. Special and efficient sanitary arrangements were made for the comfort and convenience of visitors, and the acknowledgment of the management of the Garden is due to the Corporation and their officers for ready help in this connexion. The turnstiles registered the admission of over 53,000 visitors during the festival. They were mostly Hindu pilgrims from Eastern Bengal and Assam, Jessore and Khulna, with a sprinkling of those from the districts of

Midnapore and 24-Parganas. The "Zoo" was as much a place of pilgrimage to them, specially to the women, who formed 75 per cent. of the crowd, as the sacred shrine at Kalighat, or the river Ganges. It might be interesting to note in this connexion that while the tiger afforded them the greatest attraction, the lion was not much appreciated. Perhaps it did not come up to their notion of that animal. Among other animals that appealed to their imagination were the orang-outang, heolock gibbon, mandrill, zebra and huanaco, the spitting habit of the latter affording them the greatest amusement. The antidiluvian characters of the Tapir and Hippopotamus mystified these simple minded folks, while the Ostrich was an object of veneration to the women pilgrims who took it to be the modern representative of *gaduda*, the mythical bird of the same name. It might be said on the whole that the crowd of pilgrims enjoyed their visit to the Garder immensely.

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APPENDIX A.

I.—Comparative Statement of Receipts for 1906-07 and 1907-08.

	RECEIPTS FOR—					
	1906-07.			1907-08.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Opening balance	24,135	4	9	23,898	11	2
Interest	163	3	4	163	3	4
Donations and subscriptions	252	0	0	285	0	0
Entrance receipts	33,474	4	0	37,731	15	0
Rent	2,100	0	0	2,640	0	0
Carriages and palkis, &c.	620	0	0	690	0	0
Fishing	9	0	0	6	0	0
Picnic	119	0	0	139	0	0
Rhino urine	1,229	8	0	1,392	0	0
Miscellaneous	2,278	8	8	5,120	0	0
Government contribution	20,000	0	0	20,000	0	0
Total	84,380	12	9	92,005	13	6
<i>Add</i> —Receipts from 28th to 31st March 1907, which were included in the financial year 1907-08.			514	8	0
<i>Deduct</i> —Receipts of 31st March 1908, which were included in the financial year 1908-09.			92,520	5	6
				80	12	0
GRAND TOTAL			92,439	9	6