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**GUIDE TO THE
PRINCE OF WALES'
COLLECTION OF
INDIAN ANIMALS,
ZOOLOGICAL GAR-
DENS, REGENT'S PARK.**

PRESENTATION
EDITION 

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TENDENT, INDIA MUSE-
UM, CALCUTTA. 

THE ZOOLOGICAL
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W. 

GUIDE

TO THE

Prince of Wales' Indian Collection.

INTRODUCTION.

IN the course of his tour in India in 1905 and 1906, H.R.H. The Prince of Wales had arranged to visit the native State of Nepal. The Government of Nepal and His Highness Maharajah Sir Chandra Shum Shere Jung, R.B., G.C.S.I., had made a most interesting collection of the native animals of Nepal for presentation to His Royal Highness. Unfortunately, a severe outbreak of cholera made a change of plan necessary, and the Prince of Wales was unable to visit Nepal. In the meantime His Royal Highness, following the generous example of H.M. the King, who on returning from India in 1876 presented a magnificent collection of Indian animals to the London Zoological Gardens, had telegraphed to London, asking if the Zoological Society, of which he is Vice-Patron, would arrange to receive and exhibit the collection. The Zoological Society accepted the gift with the greatest pleasure, and the Duke of Bedford, President of the Society, offered to defray the cost of transport to London. Mr. Arthur Thomson, Assistant Superintendent of the Zoological Gardens, and a keeper, at once proceeded to Calcutta, where, at the Zoological Gardens, by the kindness of the Calcutta Zoological Society, the animals were received on their arrival from Nepal. The Nepalese collection, together with animals from other parts of India, left Calcutta on May 6th, by the ss. "Tactician," in charge of Mr. Arthur Thomson, Keeper Shelley, and two Indian native keepers, and arrived at Tilbury Docks on June 8th, 1906.

The Council of the Zoological Society decided to arrange for the separate exhibition of the Prince of Wales' Collection during the summer of this year. The most suitable site was a large area on the north bank of the Canal within the boundaries of the Gardens, but, on account of its inaccessibility, not hitherto

occupied. By a fortunate coincidence, the Primrose Hill Bridge over the Canal was about to be repaired, and H.M. Commissioners of Works, in the special circumstances, most kindly agreed to allow the bridge to be doubled, and to give the Society a right of way over two small unoccupied areas of ground, so that there is now direct access across the Canal at each end of the Zoological Gardens to the newly laid-out area. The Prince of Wales' Indian Collection is thus not only an extremely interesting and valuable addition to the Society's Menagerie, but has been the direct means of a great permanent improvement to the Zoological Gardens. It is proposed to call the new part of the Gardens "The Prince of Wales' Exhibition Ground," and it is hoped that in later years special collections from other parts of the Empire may be displayed therein.

The animals in the collection are described in the order in which they may be seen by visitors who enter the Prince of Wales' Exhibition Ground after passing the Insect House and the Northern Pheasantry (Nos. 43 and 45 in the Garden Guide). The text of the Guide is by Mr. F. Finn, F.Z.S., and the illustrations are from photographs taken by Mr. W. P. Dando, F.Z.S.

P. CHALMERS MITCHELL, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.,
Secretary, Zoological Society.

MAMMALS.

THE HIMALAYAN BEAR.

(*Ursus torquatus*.)

This is the characteristic bear of the forest belt of the Himalayas, being replaced above this level by the Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*), and in the Indian Peninsula by the Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*). Eastwards it extends to South China and Formosa. Although usually constant in colour—black with a white crescent on the chest—it is remarkably variable in size, some specimens being over seven feet long, while others may be less than half this length. Those exhibited are about half-grown.

The Himalayan Bear is a very versatile and omnivorous animal. Unlike the Brown Bear, which in the Himalayas is not carnivorous, although it is so in Europe, the Himalayan Bear sometimes kills cattle, sheep and ponies. As a general rule, however, its food is vegetable, consisting of herbs, fruit, and roots, and including such items as walnuts, acorns, mulberries, grain, and wild rhubarb. In order to procure such food as walnuts and mulberries it readily climbs the trees, and has been known to climb the roof of a house to devour pumpkins growing there. It is also, like most bears, fond of honey, and appears now and then to attack the village hives. It also ravages the cornfields, and is

looking like a small wizened child. The young Japanese Monkey (*Macacus speciosus*) born this year at the Gardens also had a flesh-white face, and looked much more human than its parents, though the contrast in this case was not so striking.

THE MACAQUE MONKEY.

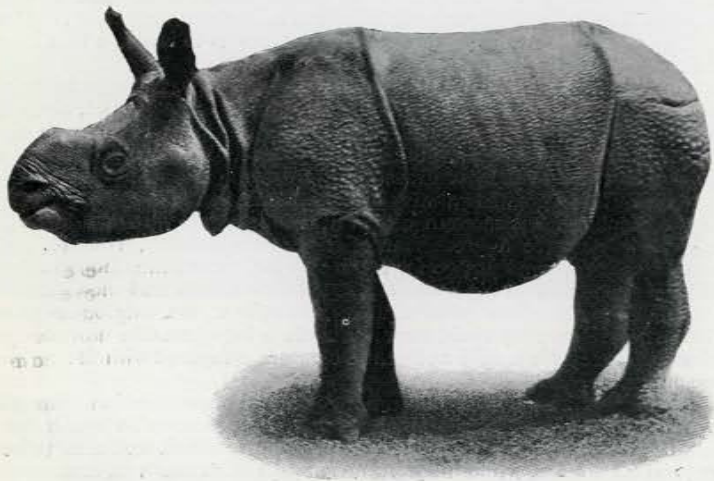
(*Macacus cynomolgus*.)

The common Macaque is one of the most abundant Monkeys in Burmah. These animals are quite hardy, and thrive better with abundant fresh air, even with exposure to cold, than in a heated "monkey house."

THE INDIAN RHINOCEROS.

(*Rhinoceros unicornis*.)

Although the Romans were acquainted with two-horned Rhinoceroses, the great one-horned Rhinoceros of India—the *Gainda* of the natives—was the first to be seen in Europe in post-classical times, a specimen having been sent to Portugal in 1513.



RHINOCEROS.

A drawing of this individual was the copy of Dürer's celebrated engraving, which represented an "armed rhinoceros" indeed, the figure showing it covered with armour plating, rivets and all complete.

In point of fact, indeed, this Rhinoceros does give the impression of an armour-plated animal. The skin is thrown into great folds, separating it into

shield-like expanses, and these are studded with bosses or tubercles which look remarkably like rivets. None of the other Asiatic species show the appearance to the same extent, and the African Rhinoceroses are smooth-skinned, without the folds and shields.

The Indian Rhinoceros, although it does not equal the largest African ones in size, is yet a large animal, reaching sometimes not much less than six feet at the shoulder. Its single horn never attains any great length, not exceeding, and seldom equalling, two feet. But in compensation for the feebleness of this weapon, it has two sharp tusks in its lower jaw, which it uses much as a boar does.

Like other Rhinoceros-horns, the nasal appendage of this species has no bony core, but is simply attached to the surface of the skull, and an individual, named "Jim," once in the Society's possession, actually succeeding in wrenching his off in trying to prize up a crowbar of his inclosure with it—to his infinite disgust, for he bellowed with the pain, while the blood flowed freely. The wound, however, soon healed up.

This Rhinoceros is one of the declining species of the world's mammalian giants. Its range in India, where alone it is found, is now confined to the Assam plain; though not so very many years ago it occurred at the foot of the Himalayas in Nepal and Sikkim, while in the sixteenth century the Emperor Baber found it common as far west in the Punjab as Peshawur. Fossil remains of it have also been found in so many places as to indicate that it once inhabited Peninsular India generally.

The haunts of this animal are the jungles of giant grass, large enough to conceal even the elephant, and it especially favours swampy ground, since it is fond, like most bare-skinned animals, of wallowing in mud. It will even make its own mud-bath by digging up the ground with its horn and fore-feet. Its food appears to consist chiefly of grass.

The Indian Rhinoceros has always had the reputation of cherishing enmity against the elephant, but modern observations do not encourage this idea, although elephants have a great fear of it. These animals, however, are so very nervous that this does not go for much; at the same time, there no doubt are and have been individually bad-tempered Rhinoceroses, and these would be especially likely to come into collision with the elephant, the only other animal larger than themselves they could meet with. It is incontestable, however, that the Indian Rhinoceros is a mild and gentle creature compared with the common African species.

This Rhinoceros has had to undergo a good deal of persecution from man. Although its invulnerable-looking hide is really quite penetrable by a bullet in the living or recently killed animal, it dries very hard indeed, and used to be in great request for shields, while the horn has always been much valued.

THE ELEPHANT.

(*Elephas maximus.*)

The Indian Elephant is not confined to India proper, but is found through south-east Asia, generally in forest country, and its eastward range extends even