The baby showed very pink under the dark skin on the first day but this was rather less noticeable on the second and subsequent days and soon was only to be seen at the folds.

The vulva of the baby was very prominent at birth and it was possible to sex on first sight. She was a perfect replica of her parent except that the head appeared elongated and the horn was absent.

It is interesting that when the infant first came out into the yard each day it urinated freely, at the same time adopting a squatting position like a bitch.

Immediately after the birth of her calf, Mohini seemed to be her usual docile self, but as the days went by she became suspicious and nervous of all human acts. When press photographs were first taken on the 5th November she ignored photographic flashes, but since then flashes have had to be banned. Equally a new electric fire, although suitably 'dulled', was not tolerated and had to be removed from the house. An immersion water heater was filled with water ready for the cold weather, but Mohini refused to enter the house until the water in the tank had ceased dripping. Her hearing is obviously very acute.

At the end of the first week the baby had grown considerably stronger and had started to push her mother head to head. Mohini on these occasions played very vigorously and it was fearsome to watch – she was so careful and yet so very clumsy.

THE RHINO HOUSE AT BASLE ZOO

by Dr E. M. Lang

Director of Basle Zoological Gardens

UNTIL recently the Great Indian Rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) at the Basle Zoo occupied a part of the elephant house which was built in 1953. Two young ones were born there in 1956 and 1958 respectively. However, as the five African Elephants gradually grew bigger and needed more and more room, the management decided to build the rhinos a new house in the Sauter Garden which, being virgin territory, provided plenty of scope for such a project. It was also high time for the Pigmy Hippopotamuses (*Choeropsis liberiensis*) to be given more breathing space. Hippos have become a tradition in the zoo, and not unjustly, for they have been kept and bred here successfully since 1928.

The main part of the new rhino house affords ample room for our adult pair of rhinos and their second offspring born in 1958, a female which is being kept

as a further brood-cow. To accommodate this group we planned three exhibit stalls, each 6 m. × 4·3 m., separated from the public by a ditch, with an adjoining basin 4 m. × 4·2 m. which presents viewing facilities from two sides. Nearby, a fourth reserve stall, invisible to spectators, stands in readiness for sick or pregnant animals. The visitors' corridor is deliberately kept as simple as possible and is lit indirectly, while the full light falls upon the rightful occupants of the house. The ditch 1·7 m. wide× 1·5 m. deep has been arranged, by means of a heap of gravel, to shelve on one side in order to prevent accidents should the animals fall in. Above the stalls and the keeper's corridor leading behind them is a hay-loft with room for a considerable stock of fodder.

The ground upon which this house is built shows a difference in height of 4 m. thus involving construction on two levels with a connecting flight of stairs. The visitor, after passing the rhino cabins and basin, climbs the short ascent and, from his new vantage point, looks down upon the animals bathing. A huge window affords him an outlook over the open-air rhino enclosure while, on the opposite side, the hippos can be observed in two exhibit stalls, likewise furnished with a basin.

Situated somewhat farther back, but connected to the main building by a wall with a corridor running behind it, is the hippos' stall, divided into five compartments, each 4·5 m. × 2·5 m. The covering of all the floors used by the animals consists of 'Stallit' stall tiles; this type of flooring proves very convenient, its heat conducting coefficient being almost equivalent to that of wood. A hay barn, accessible from the back yard, is built outside.

The whole building is furnished with a central oil heating system which at the same time provides a constant supply of hot water; both basins are served by a 10,000 lt. boiler. Although the rhino house enjoys air-conditioning, a minimum temperature of 16°C only is guaranteed in winter. The hippos' breeding stall is heated by means of a hot-water system. The planning and building of the whole house was carried out by the architects Rasser and Vadi in conjunction with the management of the Basle Zoological Gardens, with Heinz Hossdorf as engineer.

Special care was devoted to creating the open-air enclosures. They were designed by the sculptor Kurt Brägger who was also responsible for supervising the whole project. In front of the rhino house stretches a huge garden surrounded by a concealed ditch. A bathing pool, sunk in the middle of the garden, serves a secondary purpose in that the steep rock wall on one side unobtrusively separates the enclosure into two parts. On cold days the pool can be fed with warm water from the house. The visitor's way leads him along a shady path from which he is able to catch a glimpse of the animals through breaks in the foliage. Furthermore there are two observation terraces from which he can enjoy an

uninterrupted view of the whole enclosure. Even from here the ditch, overgrown by a profusion of plants, remains discreetly hidden. On the inner side, the ditch slopes at two points so that if an animal chances to fall in, it can easily climb out again. The plants around the enclosure have been arranged and selected to harmonize with the garden as a whole. The surface of the ground has been modelled and our rhinos are obviously perfectly content in their new enclosure.

For the hippos, three smaller open-air enclosures were fashioned with large pools fed from a former industrial canal that flows nearby. The scene, enlivened by an occasional hippo bobbing up out of the water and with drowsy hippos sleeping on the banks, gives the spectator a vivid impression of an African river landscape. The three pools lie on different levels and the water, in overflowing each basin, falls in a miniature cataract, itself becoming a cascading stream. As yet the hippos have never succeeded in crossing this barrier which would, to all appearances, be an almost negligible obstacle.

ASIAN RHINOS IN CAPTIVITY

By Richard J. Reynolds

THE Asiatic rhinoceroses are among the earth's rarest mammals and an attempt is made herein to list the ones that have been brought into captivity. Before beginning, the writer extends special thanks to Hans Jurg Kuhn of Heidelburg, Germany and S.F.C. Marvin L. Jones of the United States Army without whose co-operation this list would never have been possible. Mr Kuhn was particularly helpful in providing information on specimens in Europe before World War II, and Sgt. Jones contributed much information from his vast collection of zoo data.

The list is divided into three major sections, representing the three clearly defined species of Asian rhinos. Subdivisions are then made by geographical area of exhibition and the zoo, circus, menagerie, or locality having the captive rhino. When a period of exhibition is stated, the later date will be the date of death, unless the contrary is stated. Credits and sources of information are given by numbered reference to a bibliography at the conclusion.

I

GREAT INDIAN RHINOCEROS

Rhinoceros unicornis

This rhino, largest of all the Asian species, is by far the most commonly exhibited; and, eliminating obvious trades and exchanges, there appear to have

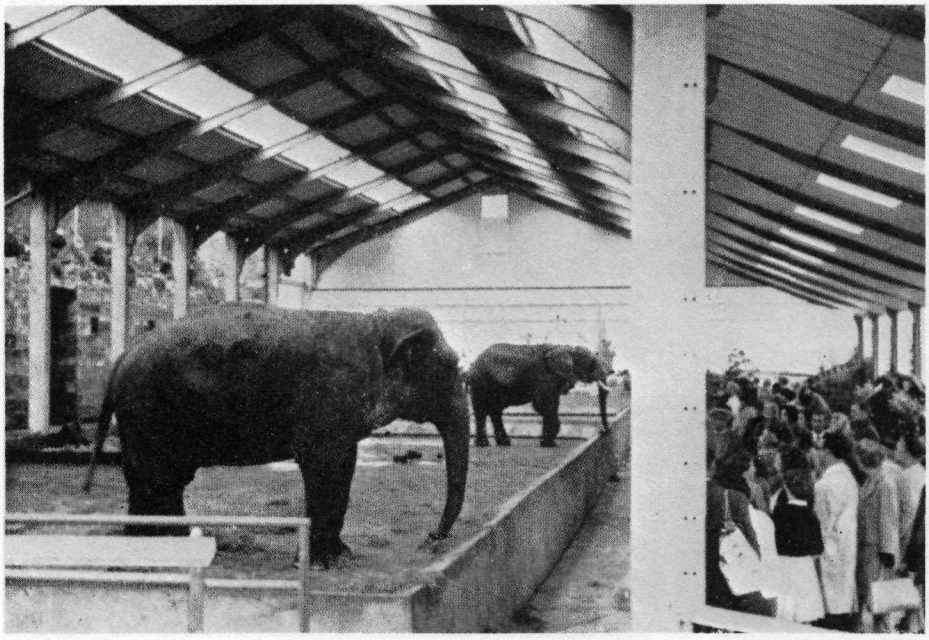

Plate VII

Elephant Section at Chester Zoo's new Pachyderm House. (*See pp.* 3–5.)

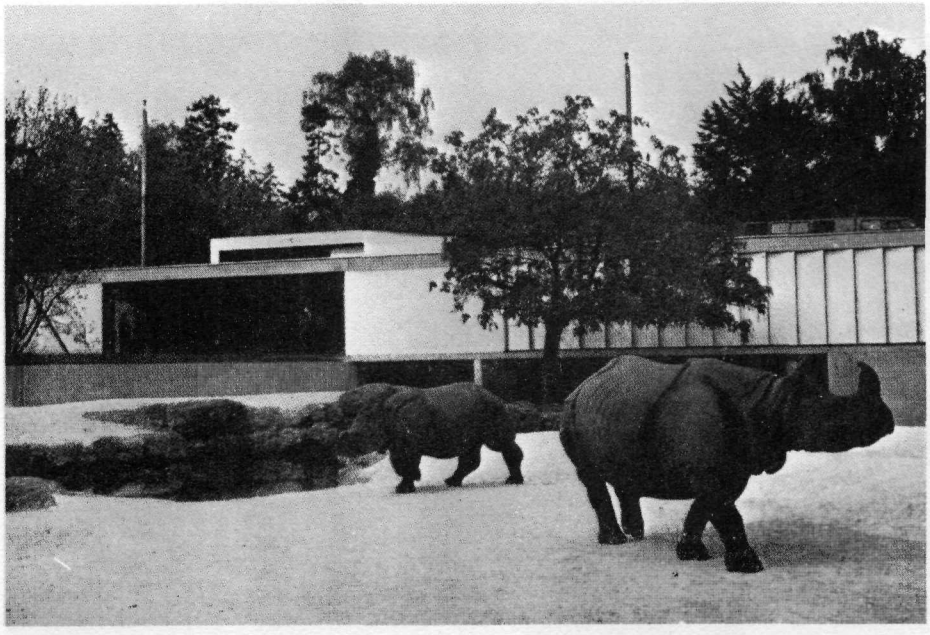

Plate VIII *Paul Steinemann, Easle Zoo*

Outdoor Enclosure for Great Indian Rhinos at Basle Zoo. The new Rhino House can be seen in the background. (*See pp.* 15–17.)