

CALCUTTA ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

The number of visitors to the Zoological Gardens last year was 111,573, being an increase of about 3,000 over the previous year; but these figures do not include a large number of students and children under eight years of age who were admitted free. The total income of the year, including the balance carried forward and the Government grant, was Rs. 52,737, against Rs. 45,279 in the previous year, while the expenditure was Rs. 41,458, against Rs. 43,992. The increased receipts were chiefly due to larger donations and subscriptions, including a donation of Rs. 5,000 from the Nawab of Murshedaba. There was also an increase of upwards of Rs. 1,200 in the entrance receipts; and the miscellaneous receipts show a satisfactory increase. The latter include a sum of Rs. 2,884 from the *fête* and fancy fair, and Rs. 8,618 from the sale of animals, and it is to be hoped that animals are sold only when they can be conveniently spared from the Gardens. The purchase of animals cost Rs. 3,211 and their transport Rs. 117. There is a balance in hand of Rs. 11,278, but the greater part of this is due for substantial work in progress at the end of the year. Many improvements were made, including additions and alterations to the Surnamoye House to protect its inmates as much as possible from the cold weather nights, and four new kiosks were built from materials purchased at the sale of the King of Oudh's menagerie, which are a great improvement upon some of the old unsightly structures. The most interesting event that has ever happened in the Gardens was the birth of a young rhinoceros, and other new specimens were received in exchange from the Zoological Gardens of London and Hamburg; but the number of presentations were only 42, as against 113. It is suggested by the Lieutenant-Governor in his resolution on the report for last year, that, as the Garden has now been in existence for thirteen years many events must have taken place among the large number of animals and birds kept there which would be of interest to the scientific world and to persons interested in zoology; also that considerable experience must have been gained in the management of animals, birds, &c, in confinement, and their treatment in sickness which would be of practical use to the managing bodies of other Zoological Gardens and to individuals who have private collections. Sir Stuart Bayley is strongly of opinion that it is incumbent on all persons who keep animals in captivity to avoid, as far as possible, anything like cruelty (such as want of space, or air, proper food, or cleanliness) in their treatment, and he recognizes that the Zoological Gardens' managing committee set an excellent example in this respect. He would venture to suggest that from the records of the committee and the recollections of their able superintendent, it would be possible for them to produce a hand-book, which might be of great use to the numerous nobles and other persons who, on a smaller scale, keep collections of animals or birds in captivity.—*Englishman.*