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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL.

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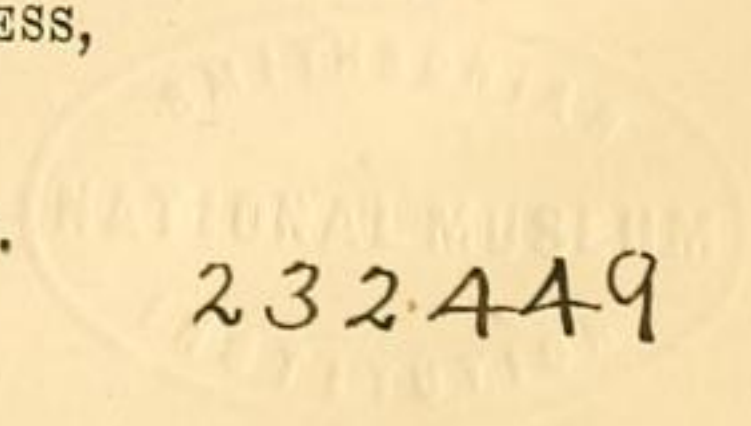


JANUARY TO DECEMBER,
1889.



CALCUTTA :

PRINTED AT THE BAPTIST MISSION PRESS,
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ASIATIC SOCIETY, 57 PARK STREET.
1890.



Sir J. D. Hooker bearing, in his own handwriting, the names he has given to them in his "Flora of British India." The Library has also received an important acquisition in the correspondence of Wallich, contained in 33 volumes, extending from 1794 to 1849, which has been transferred from the Kew Library.

Zoological Garden.—Our Society, as you may recollect, took an active part in the establishment of the Zoological Garden, at Alipore, and it is satisfactory to learn that it is flourishing and continues to attract large numbers of visitors, forming a pleasant place of resort for the Calcutta public, European and native. The past year appears to have been a satisfactory one in every way. The number of visitors to the Garden who paid entrance fees in 1887-88, was 108,041, exclusive of students and children under 8 years of age.

The most important additions to the menagerie during the same period were:—By purchase; two Bactrian camels and three Russian bears, also an Indian and a Javan rhinoceros purchased from the sale of the menagerie of H. M. the late king of Oude. By the acquisition of these valuable and rare animals, the Committee were able to exhibit all the species of Asiatic Rhinoceros side by side. I may also mention that a young rhinoceros has lately been born in the gardens; a fact that is interesting as being very rare, and also because the young one is a hybrid between *R. Sumatrensis* and *R. Lasiotis*. 131 presentations, including 48 mammals, 79 birds and 4 reptiles, were made during the year.

Several improvements have been made and additional accommodation for animals provided, including a snake pit. Additional kiosks for the deer have been erected, and these animals show a greatly improved appearance as the result of their being protected from sun and rain. This is specially conspicuous in the Sambhar, which, as a rule, had always suffered in health and been very subject to skin diseases during the rains; while, during the past season, they have remained throughout in excellent condition. That the animals appreciated their improved accommodation was sufficiently clear from the fact that during the wet weather they were hardly ever to be seen lying down anywhere save on the well-raised masonry floor of their shed. Even though we are within the tropics, proper shelter for animals is necessary, and a new house for tropical birds, in which a proper temperature can be maintained during the cold nights of the winter months, is about to be built. A special secluded den, communicating with the back compartments of the portion of the Carnivora House occupied by the lions, has been constructed. It is only where such accommodation is present that successful breeding of lions in confine-