

REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

PHILADELPHIA, April 24th, 1924.

The Board of Directors of the Zoological Society of Philadelphia presents to the members and loanholders its fifty-second annual report, for the year ending February 29th, 1924.

GENERAL AFFAIRS AND FINANCES.

The number of members at the close of the year was:—

Annual members.....	118
Life members.....	930
Honorary members.....	8
Perpetual memberships.....	241
Junior members.....	31
	1,328
Total members.....	1,328

The following is a report in detail of the admissions and receipts for the year:—

Adults (paying at gates).....	283,326
Children (paying at gates).....	88,112
Members (including life and annual members, loanholders' annual, and complimentary an- nual tickets).....	1,485
Loanholders' single tickets.....	5,943
Free admissions (charitable institutions, donors' tickets, &c.)*.....	4,168
	383,034

* In addition to these 200,000 tickets were issued for the admission of pupils of the Philadelphia Schools.

Monthly Record of Receipts from Admissions for 1923-1924, with corresponding account for 1922-1923.

MONTH	1922-1923	1923-1924	COMPARISON
March.....	\$4,739.50	\$8,143.45	Increase \$3,403.95
April.....	11,795.25	8,829.15	Decrease 2,966.10
May.....	13,397.65	14,288.55	Increase 890.90
June.....	8,532.95	10,438.20	Increase 1,905.25
July.....	13,046.85	13,743.05	Increase 696.20
August.....	13,055.30	14,979.65	Increase 1,924.35
September..	12,623.95	15,600.00	Increase 2,976.05
October.....	10,701.80	9,464.50	Decrease 1,237.30
November..	5,616.60	6,828.10	Increase 1,211.50
December...	2,379.30	4,669.85	Increase 2,290.55
January....	1,978.95	2,418.55	Increase 439.60
February...	2,304.35	2,977.85	Increase 673.50
	\$100,172.45	\$112,380.90	Increase \$12,208.45

The receipts from admissions were greater than last year, indicating the continued popularity of the Garden. Not included in the total number of visitors during the year, there were many public school children who annually visit the Garden, thus widely extending an educational influence in its most effective form.

Among the improvements completed during the year, were, the pens for the foxes and wolves, providing an abundance of fresh air and sunshine which was not obtainable in the old, dark, and ill-smelling pens. The animals have improved greatly in appearance and in health. Alterations were made in one of the gate houses at the northern end of the Garden, for additional toilet facilities and alterations in the reptile house. Minor improvements and repairs were completed as usual.

During the year 551 mammals, 1,320 birds, 1,068 reptiles, 33 amphibians and 2 pisces were exhibited.

Most of the additions to the collection were acquired by purchase, but some were presented by friends and members of the Society. Twenty-seven of these have never before been exhibited in the Garden.

In 1922, your Board of Directors and the Zoological Society of New York each commissioned Mr. Frank H. Buck, recently the Director of the San Diego Zoological Gardens in California, to procure and deliver specimens of Indian Rhinoceros. The Rhinoceros of India has gradually become very scarce, although there are still a few in certain districts, and especially in the independent state of Nepal. Mr. Buck on arriving in India found that owing to the increasing population in southeastern Nepal, there had been much complaint of the damage done by the Rhinoceroses to the rice fields, and the peasantry had requested relief from the Nepal Durbar. As a result of this, two shooting expeditions were sent into southeastern Nepal under the direction of General Kaiser Shamsheer, a nephew of the Maharaja of Nepal. General Shamsheer arranged the hunting expedition of the Prince of Wales on his visit to India in 1921. In describing his methods of capturing the two Rhino calves, General Shamsheer said the larger of the two was between two and three years old and weighed nearly a ton. The calf and mother were seen together and on coming up to them, General Shamsheer managed to get a fatal shot into the old cow. She dropped in her tracks, and as is the custom with Rhino calves the young one remained by her side. Rope nets which had been taken along for the purpose were immediately brought up and thrown around the calf, making an enclosure of probably an acre in extent. This had to be done quickly, as a calf of that size would not stay long beside the dead cow. Over a hundred Ghurka soldiers managed the nets under General Shamsheer's supervision and they gradually closed in on the young Rhinoceros, until it was hemmed within an enclosure of only twenty-five or thirty feet in diameter. General Shamsheer said that the animal put up a game fight, and his entire force of men was

necessary to keep the nets taut and to prevent the animal from dashing through them. The enclosure being of soft texture, the calf was unable to injure itself in its frantic efforts to escape. At this juncture, logs and poles were cut from the forest and brought up to the corral. These were driven in the ground close together and banked high with earth on the outside. The Rhino was left in this manner for several days with the rope nets stretched taut inside of the log corral, so that the animal could not butt its head against the logs in its attempts to escape. Milch Goats were brought from a distant settlement and a gruel of boiled rice, goat's milk and sugar was fed to the animal, in addition to jungle leaves which were cut daily by the attendants. When it had become somewhat tractable and its restlessness subsided sufficiently, and there was no longer any danger of its becoming injured, the rope nets were taken out and the animal was left in the log enclosure. The nets were then taken to another section and the second calf was captured in the same manner.

Owing to government restrictions, Mr. Buck was not allowed at first to accompany the expedition, but later on he managed to obtain special permission to go into Nepal for the purpose of personally superintending the transportation of the two animals to the coast. It required just a year to deliver the Rhinoceroses, one in New York and one in Philadelphia.

While in India, Mr. Buck also secured for the Society a young Orang-utan and a pair of Anoa's. The Anoa is the smallest of all the Buffalo and is the only bovine native to the Celebes. Dr. W. L. Abbott, of your Board of Directors, has expressed the opinion that this pair of Anoa's can not be named with certainty; they do not seem to be the typical *Anoa depressicornis*, being somewhat smaller and having longer and curlier hair. They may, however, be the sub species named *Anoa quarlesi* Ouwens, described from an immature pair from the mountains of Central Celebes. But no description of adults of this species seems to have been published.