CARL HAGENBECK INTERVIEWED.

Although Hamburg is the chief port of Germany, was founded by Charlemagne in 805, was formerly one of the chief towns of the Hanseatic League, and is, moreover, with its numberless canals and its spacious alsters—as the immense tree-girt basins are called—one of the most picturesque and agreeable towns of North Germany, it is not for either of these reasons that it is so well known and is the object of such interest to those who devote themselves to the task of providing amusement for the public by the exhibition of wild animals. Hamburg is to the public caterer of this class, and to his animal friends, what Rome is to the artist, what Milan is to the singer, and Mecca is to the Mussulman. It is the centre to which they gravitate, and it is there he repairs when he has need to increase or replenish the material from which he derives his income. Not alone has the exhibitor of wild animals learnt to depend on Hamburg for his supplies, but also the directors of the numerous zoological gardens which are scattered throughout the world. The Thier Park, on the Neue Pferde Market, is the spot, and Carl Hagenbeck is its presiding genius. On presenting ourselves at the Thier Park we were at once shown into Herr Hagenbeck's office, who very courteously acceded to our wish to inspect his collection, and conducted us himself over the establishment. Carl Hagenbeck is physically far from being what we are pleased to picture to ourselves as the typical German—tall and spare in form, his aquiline nose and thin, clean-shaven, nervous features, fringed round with a short beard, give one at first more the impression of an American than a German—a kind of benevolent Sam Slick, although we must hasten to add that both his countenance and his genial, straightforward manner entirely preclude any suspicion of smartness, as understood on the other side of the Atlantic.

The history of the origin and development of his large menagerie is characteristic and instructive, and shows what a man can do when his energies, backed by his inclination, are devoted to one object. This important wild beast business was started and developed entirely by the present proprietor, and from very modest commencements. Carl Hagenbeck's father was a fish merchant in Hamburg, and occasionally the Norwegian and Swedish fishermen, who furnished him with fish, brought with them seals, which Carl Hagenbeck *père* used to acquire and dispose of. One day they varied the *menu* by bringing a Polar bear to sell him, thinking, doubtlessly, that they had sufficiently paved the way for this transition from fish to flesh in the character of the merchandise by the previous connecting link offered by the seals. Old Carl Hagenbeck had at first some misgivings about departing from his accustomed trade, but ultimately the bear was bought, and disposed of; and this first transaction in wild animals suggested to young Carl Hagenbeck the possibility of doing a business in such merchandise, and opened up to him the prospect of dealing in other and less familiar members of the animal kingdom. This occurred in 1852, and soon after young Carl Hagenbeck, when fifteen years old, informed his father of his disinclination to follow the fish business, and of his determination of starting as a wild animal dealer. The father expostulated with him on the folly of abandoning the already established piscatorial commerce, and endeavoured to convince him of the visionary and uncertain nature of the venture he wished to pursue. He, however, ended by giving him a moderate sum of money, and his hearty assurance that when that was gone the boy would have no more. The result we have before us to-day, and with his extensive depôt at Hamburg, and his numerous travellers engaged in capturing and acquiring animals in all parts of the world, Carl Hagenbeck's business is, undoubtedly, the largest of the kind existing.

In the grounds of the Thier-park there is a miniature circus, in which various animals are educated, previous to facing *le feu de la rampe*. When we visited it a small black donkey was being initiated into the art and mystery of balancing himself with a man on a see-saw, and we could not but admire the patience and perseverance of the tutor as he gradually got the animal, naturally at first somewhat intimidated in his novel position, to understand and execute that which was required of him. We asked Herr Hagenbeck to tell us, if it would not be violating any professional secret, what was the means and principle of educating wild animals, especially those of a less amiable disposition, such as lions and tigers. His answer was that the only secret was patience and perseverance, aided in the case of lions and such like by the natural fear these animals have of man. He assured us that any one might go into a den of lions and tigers, and that these animals would simply rush round and round in fear. We did not ask to be allowed personally to put this theory to the test, especially as he went on to say that there was sometimes a "cheeky" one, who would be less embarrassed, and whose example might prove contagious.

As Herr Hagenback was proceeding to explain to us the various steps taken to commence and complete a lion's or tiger's education, one of the assistants—a blonde typical Saxon—approached, and asked whether the four lions which had recently arrived from Nubia were to have their first lesson that morning. Carl Hagenback answered in the affirmative, and gave instructions that all the necessary preparations should be made; then turning to us, observed that we should better be able to form an idea of the various steps taken to train these animals from witnessing the operation than from any description he could give. We accordingly proceeded to the little circus, where the black donkey had taken his lesson, and found a large cage placed there, containing one half-grown lion, two younger ones, and a lioness. They none of them exhibited that passive resignation which so frequently pervades animals which have been bred and born in captivity, but roamed about in a restless, excited manner, as if seeking some mode of escape. They had just arrived from Nubia, and probably only some six weeks or two months previous were roaming the African desert in full liberty. The cage was divided into two parts, separated by a grille, which contained a sliding door. The part from which the animals were shut off was much smaller than that occupied by them, and served simply as an entrance hall, from which a man could gain admittance to the beasts without giving them the opportunity of escaping. Around the cage were grouped three or four assistants, two equipped with poles, and two others occupied in heating in charcoal braziers a couple of iron bars; these precautions evidently being undertaken with a view to repress any inclination to "cheekiness," as Carl Hagenback indulgently termed it, on the part of the animals. We could not, however, refrain from remarking to the proprietor that these undoubtedly very excellent measures hardly consorted with his assurance of the absence of danger in confronting these animals; but, as he explained, it was usually customary to allow the brutes to recover somewhat by a more or less prolonged sojourn in the cages, from the natural fright they experienced in their new position, before attempting to train; but that the demand for animals compelled him in this case to somewhat anticipate the usual delay, and, moreover, that these animals were somewhat older than the usual run of his pupils. He also added, with pardonable pride, that during the whole course of his business career, thanks to judicious precautions, no serious accident had ever happened to any of his men from the animals in his charge.

The trainer, on whom devolved the duty of entering the cage, stood apart with his arms folded, and seemed to be studying the physiognomies of his future pupils with a view of discovering, if possible, which if any of them would be likely to prove troublesome. He was clad in thick leather thigh boots, breeches of some tough corded material, and a short leather jacket, so that any accidental scratch from the animals in their frightened gyrations would not be likely to penetrate. He was a dark, nervous, determined-looking man, of a spare, athletic frame, and as lithe looking as the animals he was shortly to confront. At a sign from Carl Hagenbeck he entered the smaller compartment of the cage, and, for a moment, confronted the animals through the bars which divided them. On seeing him so near they reared themselves up against the partition, as though they would devour him; but, in an instant, grasping firmly the loaded rhinoceros hide whip he carried in his hand, he slid aside the partition, and was in their midst. Then commenced a wild sabbat of affrighted beasts, who sprung from floor to ceiling, and wall to wall, in their unreasoning terror. The elder lion, however, evidently meant mischief, and was far less active in his movements, laying down every now and then crouching in a corner. Hagenbeck's cool eye evidently noted his demeanour, for he made a sign to the four assistants to hold themselves ready in case the trainer should require their assistance. The latter, however, seemed perfectly equal to the emergency, for, quietly approaching the brute, he dealt him a blow with his hide thong that raised a mark even on the lion's skin, and which so took him by surprise that he immediately joined the wild chase of his companions. A movement of relief on the part of Hagenbeck showed us that he considered the battle as virtually gained, and, indeed, after a few more minutes of agitation, the animals calmed down, and the lioness even suffered herself to be touched gently with the point of the whip. The first lesson was soon after brought to a close, to be followed, as Hagenbeck informed us, by a similar proceeding the next and succeeding days until the trainer could without affrighting them sit down in their midst and caress them. Then commences the actual education, which culminates in the docility exhibited by those with which Carl Hagenbeck's brother is at present travelling, one of which holds a flaming hoop in his mouth through which others jump.

We do not intend to minutely note the whole of the animals we saw, as the list would be too long, but will content ourselves with simply mentioning those which are most rare and remarkable. Some idea may be formed of the number which are frequently gathered together here from the periodical price-lists which are sent to the various zoological gardens and menagerie proprietors. In one of these we counted no less than over 500 animals, exclusive of birds, but the number is never a fixed one, as they are continually arriving and going away. There were waiting ready packed in the courtyard on the occasion of our visit a fine lion and a pair of lionesses destined for Vienna. These were comfortably installed in a travelling cage with plenty of straw, for Herr Hagenbeck will not only supply you with animals, but also with their habitations. You can order from him a complete menagerie, with every accessory, just as you can order a dinner and every necessary at Gunter's. It is easy to see that Carl Hagenbeck loves his animals, and it is most amusing to see him converse with and caress them. One charming little hippopotamus from Zanzibar seemed really fond of him. It was quite a young thing, only two years old, but already of a respectable size. When Herr Hagenbeck came up to his cage it opened its immense mouth, exposing three or four teeth, and almost asked for its expected caress. What seemed most to please it was having its palate scratched, and it is very possible that this operation procured for it as agreeable sensations as we with our less indurated mouths would experience with the aid of a *pâté de foie gras* and a glass of Pontet-Canet. The pleasure experienced was undoubtedly infinitely less expensive, and less calculated to interfere with the digestion. With a big elephant, whose accomplishments included those of walking along bottles and upon a tight-rope six inches wide, Hagenbeck had quite a long conversation in German, to which the elephant responded by caresses with his trunk.

The zebus comprised specimens of the five known varieties of India, and amongst them some small black ones used for trotting. One of these he kindly had harnessed to a kind of "sulky," and driven by a Cingalese, who seemed to hold on to this spider vehicle, which was innocent of a seat, by his toes. It was really astonishing the pace this diminutive ox could put on, and, without pretending to be able to lower the record of Maud S., he could probably give butcher's ponies, the most rapid of their race we know, 6lbs. and a beating. The elephant house contained ten of these pachydermes, the smallest being 6ft. 5in. and the largest 9ft. high and still growing. These were all working elephants employed in India to carry timber, stack up bricks, &c. It appears that they can carry baulks of timber up to one ton weight, which they do by means of their trunks, and a rope placed round the load and held in their teeth. We noted two very fine Nubian camels, or rather dromedaries, of the racing variety which are used in that country for carrying letters, and can trot as fast as a horse. In speaking of the zebus we omitted to mention the curious marks branded on the skin, with which some of them were covered. These are the distinctive marks of their successive proprietors, and cause them to look like a page from the Koran.

A novelty was a collection of four male Somali ostriches, which come from the north-east coast of Africa, opposite Aden. They are the first imported of their species. One rather dangerous-looking fellow, with a muscular leg like a running-man, was shackled, to prevent his kicking.

One of the most curious particulars respecting Hagenback's business is that he imports animals from India and sends them off to South America; he also gets animals from South America to Hamburg, and then sends them to North America; he also has a number of ostriches from one coast of Africa, which come to Hamburg, and from there go to buyers on the other coast. The four animals I saw would, he told me, probably go to south-west Africa or Algeria, to the ostrich farm there.

The snake collection included thirty-two snakes, amongst them being an Indian python, 22ft. long, and weighing 130lbs. There were also some specimens of the giant lizard, the first which have been brought to Europe. The biggest, an enormous creature, measuring 7ft. 5in. long, and weighing 80lb., was caught in the swamps near Calcutta. A black wolf from North America was the first of its species brought to Europe.

With emus Carl Hagenbeck has been very successful, and has quite a small flock of them, which have become perfectly acclimatised, and during the whole of the recent severe winter skipped about in the open air amongst the snow as if to the manner born.

It was quite refreshing to at last find someone who did not complain that trade was bad, but it seems that the unusually severe character and duration of the recent winter has wrought such havoc with the various zoological gardens and menageries that Hagenbeck can hardly get animals in sufficiently quickly to supply orders. Not that he has passed through the season himself without losses; to wit, a pair of rhinoceroses, both of which caught cold, and of which one shortly died, but by dint of careful nursing the other was brought round, and was soon after sold and sent away by sea. The second day out he was found dead in his cage. As these little pets are worth about £600 each, it will be seen that the business of wild animal dealer is not all "fat." We asked whether the skins and skeletons of these dead animals did not realise some considerable amount, but he assured us when any such loss occurred he always got it out of sight as soon as possible, and usually presented the carcases to museums.

Carl Hagenbeck intends bringing to England this summer a vast menagerie and Indian exhibition, in which animals of that country will figure largely. The show should excel anything yet seen in England. There are at present on their way six enormous elephants, in addition to those he has at Hamburg, and a ship is due at Southampton in the middle of this month containing seventy animals and sixty-five native Cingalese.

The elephants will comprise specimens from Ceylon, Sumatra, and Burmah, and will figure prominently in a series of Indian religious processions, amongst others that of the Parra Harra, in which, in a magnificent howdah, borne by a richly caparisoned elephant, the sacred tooth of Buddha is carried in triumph. The actual sacred fang it is possible he may not be able to procure, but in all the other details we believe the exhibition will be scrupulously correct. He showed us a series of photographs procured by his representatives in India, from which the details of the show will be arranged.

We quitted the society of the celebrated Hagenbeck with the thought that, even if it be true "who drives fat oxen should himself be fat," dealing in wild beasts does not preclude a courteous and genial demeanour totally at variance with that of the subjects of this special commerce.

ON THE ROAD, APRIL 26.

ADAM BEDE.—Ramsgate.
A MOTHER'S SIN.—Tyne Theatre, Newcastle.
A TRUE STORY.—Grand Theatre, Glasgow.
ALONE IN LONDON.—Theatre Royal, Middlesbr
ANDERSON (Mary) Co.—Chicago.
BEATRICE Co.—Sheffield.
BENSON, F. R.—Memorial T., Stratford-on-Av
BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.—Manchester.
BURTON, H. D.—Theatre Royal, Colchester.
CALLED BACK (A).—Theatre Royal, West Brom
CANDIDATE, C. Wyndham.—O. H., Northamp
CASTE Co.—Theatre Royal, Plymouth.
CHILDREN'S Comic Opera Co.—Opera House, C
CLEAR AHEAD.—Theatre Royal, Preston.
COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Public Hall, Wrexham.
COMPTON Comedy Co.—T. R., West Hartlepo
CREAMER, Auguste —Theatre Royal, Leeds.
CRIMES OF PARIS (Mansell).—Queen's T., Man
CRICHTON'S (Haldane) Co.—Theatre Royal, Li
DARK DAYS (A).—Theatre Royal, Hull.
DARK DAYS (B).—Theatre Royal, Rochdale.
DEAD BEAT (Collingwood).—Opera House, Bu
DE GREY (Miss).—Her Majesty's Theatre, Dun
DONAGH, THE.—Theatre Royal, Coventry.
ELLIOTT (Charlotte).—Greenock.
ENGLISH OPERA Co (Turner).—Prince's, Bradf
ERMINIE.—Winter Gardens, Southport.
EVER FAITHFUL (E. Darbey).—Theatre Royal,
EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF.—Theatre R., Ipsw
FUN ON THE BRISTOL (Waldon).—T. R., Wak
GALLEY SLAVE (L. Lablache).—Theatre Royal,
GARTHORNE'S Co.—Devonshire Park T., Eastb
GOULD, FRED.—Theatre Royal, Cambridge.
HARBOUR LIGHTS.—Opera House, Leicester.
HERBERTE-BASING'S Co.—Theatre Royal, Exet
HOLT'S COMBINATION.—Prince's, Blackburn.
HOODMAN BLIND.—Theatre Royal, Manchester
HOPE (Naomi).—Public Hall, Burnley.
HUMAN NATURE (North).—Birmingham.
HUMAN NATURE (South).—Portsmouth.
IN THE RANKS.—Court, Liverpool.
IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND.—North Shiel
JACK-IN-THE-BOX (F. Leslie).—T. R., Brighton
LARKS.—Star Theatre, Swansea.
LEE (Jennie).—Alexandra Theatre, Liverpool.
LES CLOCHES Co. (Barry & Hogarth's).—Manche
LINGARD, Miss (Sister Mary).—T. R., Newcas
LITTLE 18 CARAT (Moore).—Theatre Royal, Wi
MAGISTRATE (A Co.).—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
MAGISTRATE (B Co.).—T. R., Sunderland.
MAIN HOPE.—Theatre Royal, Bristol.
MAN TO MAN (W. Bourne).—Barrow.
M'CARTHY'S MISHAPS.—Theatre Royal, Burnl
MIKADO (D Co.)—Gaiety Theatre, Dublin.
MIKADO (E Co.).—Theatre Royal, Carlisle.
MILTON-RAYS.—Theatre Royal, Cardiff.
MULDOON'S PICNIC (T. J. West).—Hastings.
MULDOON'S PICNIC (Wheatley & Traynor).—Ma
MULDOON'S PICNIC (Cutler and Peck).—White
MURRAY AND REED.—Theatre Royal, Barnsley
NEWBOLT, Lieut.-Col.—Theatre Royal, Shrews
NEW MAGDALEN.—Theatre Royal, Leith.
NORMAN, Gertrude.—Theatre Royal, Stockton
O'GRADY, HUBERT.—Queen's, Dublin.
ON 'CHANGE.—Royalty Theatre, Glasgow.
PEER OR PAUPER.—Grand, Leeds.
PRIVATE SECRETARY (A).—Prince of Wales's, L
PRIVATE SECRETARY (B).—Aquarium, Yarmou
PRIVATE SECRETARY (C).—Theatre Royal, Ryd
REDEMPTION.—Theatre Royal, Stratford.
ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA Co.—T. R., Sunderla
RUBBER OF LIFE.—Theatre Royal, Doncaster.
SCUDAMORE, F. A. (First-Class).—Newport, Mo
SHERIDAN, Brinsley Co.—Theatre Royal, Gra
SHINE, J. L. Co.—Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.
SILVER KING.—Prince's, Accrington.
SILVER SHIELD.—Theatre Royal, Great Grims
STOWAWAY, The.—Theatre Royal, Cambridge.
SULLIVAN, Chas.—Princess's, Glasgow.
STREETS OF LONDON.—Prince of Wales's, Birn
TULLY, John.—Athenæum, Lancaster.
TWO ORPHANS.—Theatre Royal, Southampton
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN (Sounes).—Spennymoor.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN (Dickeson), No. 1.—Long
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN (Dickeson), No. 2.—Stou
UNKNOWN and MIZPAH.—Theatre Royal, Wig
WELDON, Mrs.—Theatre Royal, Glasgow.
WORLD The (Holt's).—Theatre Royal, Bolton.
WHITE SLAVE.—Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

WANTED, A THEATRICAL SECRE

At Marlborough-street Police-court, on Fri inst., John Sylvannus Tanner, of Piccadil Piccadilly, was summoned by William Brettell, for obtaining £100 from him by me certain false pretence, and with intent to defra Grain appeared for the complainant; and M conducted the defence. Mr Grain said the con was formerly a clerk in the National Bank. S ago, owing to an advertisement for a theatrical s he came into communication with the defend informed him that he wanted a manager and t whose duty it would be to receive all monies, t salaries, and to hand over the balance, should any. The defendant represented that he was of three West-end clubs. He also represented th in affluent circumstances, having two banking It was stated that a great deal of money w through the complainant's hands, and he was that he would have to deposit £100 as a guarant faith. After some negotiations, an agreement w up by which it was arranged that the complaina receive a salary of £5 a week, and to hand ov defendant £100. This amount was actually p defendant, but when the complainant began his found that Mr Tanner had a number of creditor in a state of impecuniosity. The complainant unable to get his deposit back from Mr Tanner, also known by the name of Evelyn. The con stated that at the end of February last he saw t dant, who told him he wanted a business man treasurer, but that he should require £100 as The complainant offered to give the names stantial persons who would be security for th £500; but the defendant replied that he m cash, and that he could take no other kind of The complainant acted in the capacity of treas manager from March 1st to April 3d. The d informed him, when he wanted the £100 back, had a lot of money coming to him, and aske accept a post-dated cheque. This he agreed t the cheque was not honoured when presen cross-examination the complainant said he salary out of the takings. All moneys passe his hands except some cheques which were He used to pay away about £70 a week in sala case was adjourned.

FIRES IN THEATRES.

A curious return has been laid before t Statistical Society by Dr. Choquet with rega number of theatres which have been burnt d 1750. He gives the total as 632, of which burnt down in the last half of the eighteenth 51 in the first quarter of this century, 100 f to 1850, 76 from 1850 to 1860, 103 from 186 169 from 1870 to 1880, and 174 from 1880 to t last year; while three theatres at Detroit, Ma Orleans have been burnt this year. The n persons who have perished in the flam very much; for, while 1,010 were burnt between 1790 and 1800, and 2,144 betw and 1850, the total was only 241 for years from 1850 to 1860. This is due to the now and again some theatre is burnt down wh people, as was the case in 1794, when 1,00 perished in the theatre at Capo d'Istria; in 18 800 persons were burnt at St. Petersburg; an when 1,670 perished in a Canton theatre. fires of the last few years have been at Vien 450 people perished in the Ring Theatre in 18 Nice, where 70 persons were burnt to death in year. Altogether 6,573 people have perished 135 years, or 48 persons in every year, this be small percentage of the whole theatre-going