

Breeding of the INDIAN RHINOCEROS

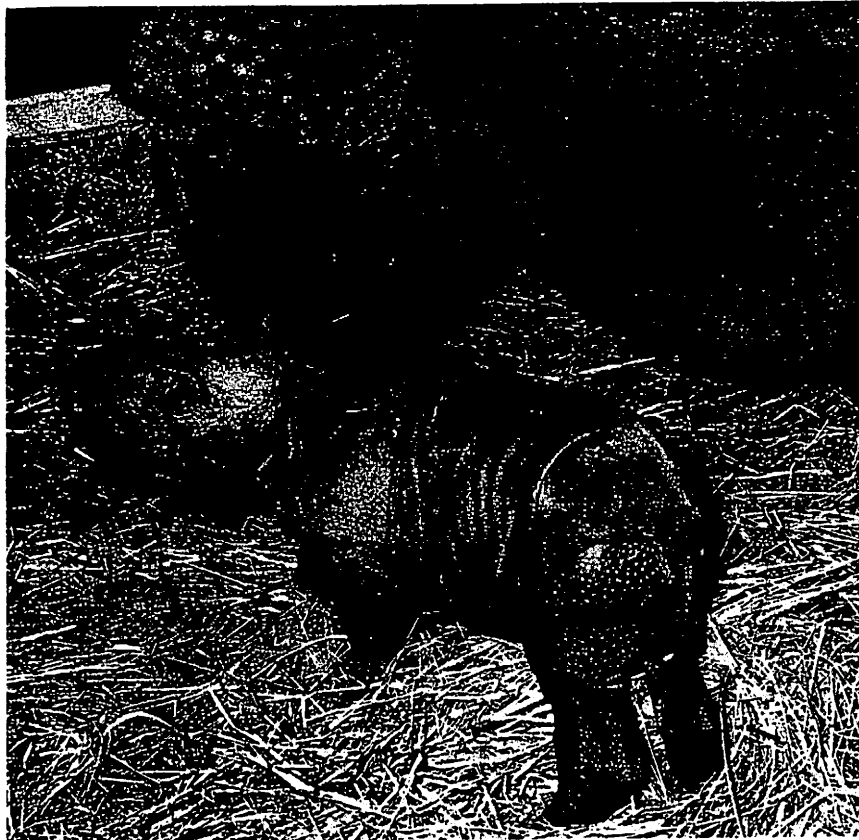
at the Basel Zoo

By E. M. LANG

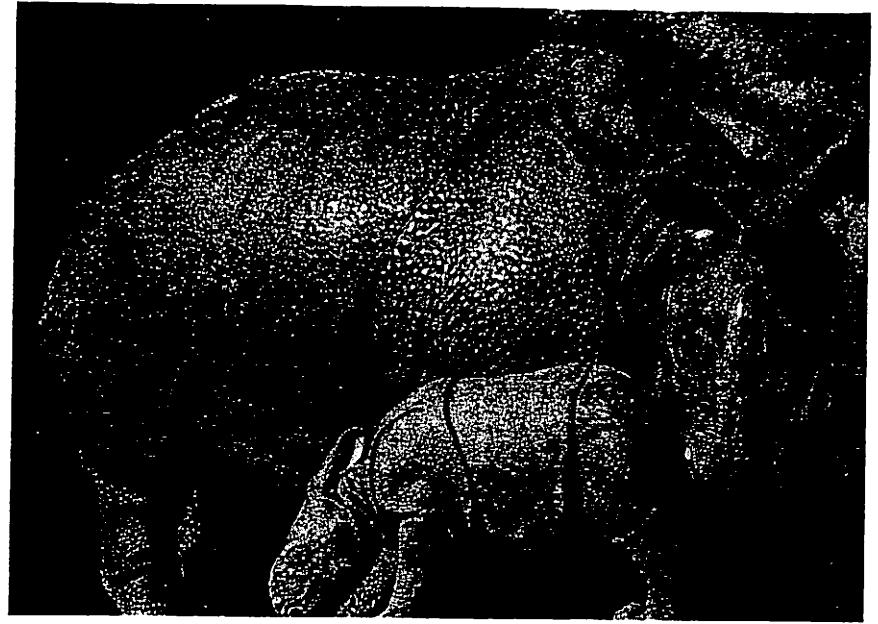
DURING 1951 the authorities of the Basel Zoological Gardens, Switzerland, imported a male Indian Rhinoceros from the Kaziranga Reserve in Assam, and in the following year a female was received from the same source.

When the new Elephant and Rhinoceros House was completed in 1953, the two animals were put together. It was noticed

that the female came into season at intervals of 50-55 days, the last season occurring in May, 1955. In the Spring of 1956 she was evidently pregnant. Three urine tests were carried out at different times, but these were negative. In September, however, a fine calf weighing 60.5 kilogrammes was born. Four weeks later the weight of the baby was 111 kilos and it continues to thrive.



The Indian Rhinoceros calf three hours after birth. Photo: Photo Hoffinger.



The calf with its mother ten days later. Photo: H. Bertolf.

BOOK REVIEWS

Wild Life of Australia and New Guinea

By Charles Barrett. Melbourne. William Heinemann Ltd. pp. 229. Illustrated. 21s.

This is a vast subject for a small book, but Mr. Barrett manages to say something interesting about many of the strange creatures that inhabit these regions, and finds room to mention a few of the animals of Tasmania and New Zealand as well.

First published in 1954 and written primarily for young people, this book contains a lot of accurate information. It is well illustrated with excellent photographs, line drawings and a coloured plate.

No Tears for the Crocodile

By Paul Potous. London. 1956. Hutchinson. Illustrated. 15s.

Mr. Potous has written a good account of his experiences as a hunter of crocodiles on the western shores of Lake Nyasa. His main concern has been to find the swamp and riverside haunts of the crocodiles and then shoot them. The only part of the carcass which the hunter wants is the soft belly skin, and the rest is just thrown back into the lake, where it may serve as food for the rich fish population. Perhaps one might say that the author is mainly concerned with the human approach to crocodiles and, this being so, his story fits his title, for he is obviously no lover of his prey. We must still wait for a book which will tell something of the biology of this most interesting group of reptiles.

The London Zoo

By Philip Street. London, 1956. Odhams Press Ltd. pp. 223. 16s.

Tracing the history of the Zoological Society since its formation in 1826 and the opening of the Regent's Park Gardens in 1828, the author proceeds to the present day and outlines the plans and hopes for the future.

Information is provided on the natural history and the care of some animals in the Society's collection, but space does not permit mention of them all—indeed, another similar volume could be written about the creatures to be seen in the Rodent House, ranging from the egg-laying Echidna to Fruit Bats and many others. A number of photographs illustrate the text.

Animals in Fur

By Clarence Hylander. New York and London. The Macmilland Company. 24s. 6d.

This book is an introduction for young naturalists to the mammals of the United States. It is interesting and well written, although it contains some mistakes. The whales, for instance, do not move their flukes up and down independently of each other to create a propeller-like thrust which moves their great bulk through the water with ease. The photographic illustrations are good, but the drawings leave much to be desired; in particular, one of a seal is a shocking travesty.