keep the milk warm; any appreciable cooling was followed by a cessation of feeding. Feeding was usually carried out four times a day and 300–400 ml. were consumed each time. Using this method, no trouble was experienced in feeding the seal up to within 24 hours of its death, except for one or two days when it appeared to be out of condition. During such periods all the flippers felt cold and it repeatedly sucked its hind flippers, exhibiting also a coprophilic tendency. A hot water bottle was put in its box at such times.

Finally, it may be noted that an inflammation of the eyelid of one eye, which developed earlier on, healed after repeated swabbing with cotton wool soaked in a weak borax (sodium borate) solution.

The seal showed a distinct desire for company, often becoming restless when left alone. It is conceivable that if it had been provided with a companion this would, together with an improved diet and an avoidance of excessive handling, have led to more success in rearing.

I should like to express my thanks to various members of the scientific and technical staffs of the Marine Station as well as to many willing hands outside the Station for their invaluable help in many ways.

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MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY FOR SCIENTIFIC BUSINESS.

October 14th, 1947.

Dr. L. Harrison Matthews,
Vice-President, in the Chair.

Dr. Edward Hindle, F.R.S., Scientific Director, gave a report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the months of June, July, August and September, 1947. During this period four large collections were received. In July, Mr. C. S. Webb, the Curator Collector, brought home a collection consisting of nearly 200 mammals, birds and reptiles from British Guiana: in August, Overseer Flewin returned with 250 mammals, birds, and reptiles from India, Ceylon and Egypt, and in the same month Mr. Harwood, Supervisor of the Quarantine Station, arrived with a collection from West Africa; finally, in September we received a collection of animals brought home by Mr. W. J. C. Frost which included a Malay Wild Dog, *Cuon javanicus*, presented by H.E. Sir Edward Gent, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., an adult Orang Utan, *Pongo pygmaeus*, presented by A. R. Griffin, and two young Orang Utans which were purchased.

Thirteen species and subspecies new to the Collection were added during the four months, and special mention may also be made of a Concolor Gibbon, *Hylobates concolor*, born in the Menagerie in June; 4 Two-toed Sloths, *Choloepus didactylus*, 2 Tamandua Anteaters, *Tamandua tetradactyla*, mother and young, and a cream-coloured Tayra, *Tayra barbara*, all from British Guiana; a Great Indian Rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros unicornis*, now at Whipsnade; 2 Shoebills, *Balaeniceps rex*, 2 Saddle-billed Storks, *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*, a Javan Pond Heron, *Ardeola speciosa*, all obtained by purchase; and a Seraphin Coecilian, *Geotrypetes seraphini*, presented by Père Carret.

Mr. C. S. Webb made some remarks on his recent collecting expedition to British Guiana, and showed lantern-slides of some of the more interesting mammals. These included the Two-toed Sloth (*Choloepus didactylus*); the Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus tridactylus*); the Tamandua Anteater (*Tamandua tetradactyla*) and young; the Little Anteater (*Cyclopes didactyla*); the Tree Porcupine (*Springhurus prehensilis*) and the Brazilian Tapir (*Tapirus americanus*).

Following this Mr. Webb showed a Kodachrome film of wild-life in British Guiana. The film opened with some colourful scenes of the Botanical Gardens, Georgetown, and of the netting of a large Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) which had been kept temporarily in a large trench.

Close-up shots of the Crab-eating Raccoon were shown illustrating the remarkable way in which this animal uses its fore-paws to find food. Then followed photographs of two varieties of the Spider Monkey (*Ateles paniscus*), one black and the other brown, the latter being very uncommon. Mr. Webb pointed out these were two extreme variations of the same species, the brown variety having long hair and a rudimentary thumb, and the black variety short hair and no thumb.

The Two-toed Sloth was shown climbing, and also on the ground. The limbs of this mammal are so constructed that it is unable to support itself in an upright position, and when on the ground is extremely awkward in movement.

The Tamandua Anteater was seen climbing and seeking out the tree-ants on which it feeds, and its remarkable adaptation to an arboreal existence was clearly illustrated. A young Tamandua was also seen clinging to its mother's back and searching for ants independently.

The movements of the Tree Porcupine, another arboreal mammal, were illustrated to show its peculiar method of descending trees.

A pair of young Tapirs (3 months old) were shown with the characteristic stripes and spots of the juvenile Tapir. These animals are now eight months old, and their markings are fast disappearing.

Dr. O. Lowenstein gave an abstract of a paper on "Recent Observations on the Psychology of the Honey-Bee," published in 1946 in 'Experientia, Vol. 2, and 'Oesterreichische Zool. Zeitschrift,' Vol. 1. The paper represented a report on recent discoveries by Professor K. v. Frisch of the University of Graz, who observed that scout bees returning to the hive, after finding a rich source of nectar or pollen, report their discovery to the foragers by dancing. The type of flower is indicated by its scent adhering to the body of the scout or to the nectar handed in on return to the hive. There are two types of dance, a round dance signalling food in the immediate vicinity of the hive, and a tail-wagging dance drawing attention to food at a distance of more than a hundred yards. A gradation in the rate of turning during the tail-wagging dance, ranging from forty turns per minute down to eight per minute, corresponds to progressively greater distances of the food source. The tail-wagging dance also conveys a compass-reference to the direction in which the food is to be found. If the straight part of this dance points upwards on the vertical comb, food is indicated somewhere on a line between the hive and the position of the sun; if the straight part points downwards, a direction diametrically opposite is indicated. Intermediate positions are symbolized by dancing with the straight course at corresponding angles with the vertical. When dancing on a horizontal surface, *e.g.*, in front of the hive, scouts abandon any reference to the sun, the straight course of their dance pointing in the direction of the food source.

A Soviet film on the life of the Honey-Bee was exhibited and remarks on the film were made by Mr. Cartwright Farmiloe and Dr. O. Lowenstein.