

surprising that prejudices so unjustifiable still continue to prevail.
W. B. TEGETMEIER.

THE LATE MR CHARLES JAMRACH.

THE name of Jamrach, as associated with the importation of wild animals, is familiar to all lovers of natural history. Many years since, when the street now designated St. George's-street East was known under its more plebeian appellation of Ratcliff Highway, Jamrach's was the establishment in it that was most frequently visited by the inhabitants of London living further west. In the old times, before the date of the swift-steaming passenger ships, the crews of the sailing vessels were accustomed to bring home any strange or new animals met with in their voyages. These ships were boarded, on their arrival in the river, by Jamrach or his agents, and thus many rare and curious animals were secured; others were bought from the officers, or were consigned to the dealer direct. In this manner numerous specimens would find their way to Jamrach's, and hundreds or thousands of specimens would be on sale at one time. Large animals from every quarter of the globe were to be found in his overcrowded and inconvenient menagerie. The public at large associated all important animals that came to London with the name of Jamrach, and to so great an extent does this idea prevail that in the obituary notice which appeared in the *Times* of the late principal of the firm, Charles Jamrach, who died on Sunday last, he was credited with the introduction of the hippopotamus to the Regent's Park Gardens, a proceeding with which he had not the slightest connection, the original couple being imported by the Zoological Society, and an additional one obtained from Amsterdam. Three young ones have been born in the Gardens, under the superintendence of Mr Bartlett, to whose marvellous care as obstetric physician to the Behemoth the present specimen in the Gardens is indebted for its existence.

Nor was Mr Jamrach's first wife the daughter of a French Canadian, but of an Italian dealer in birds and other animals at Hamburgh. Mr Jamrach's son by his first wife was a man of magnificent physique and manly presence, which procured him the cognomen of the Black Prince amongst his compeers. After the death of his first wife, Mr Jamrach was twice married, and has left several descendants.

Some years since the name of Jamrach was brought prominently before the public owing to the escape from the menagerie of a young tiger about the size of a large dog, that, walking into the street, seized a child by the shoulder. Jamrach rushed out, and, throwing himself on the beast, endeavoured to rescue the boy. In this he was assisted by his keepers, and by their united efforts the tiger cub was dragged back into his cage, and the boy, rather badly bitten in the shoulder, was conveyed to the hospital. The parents sued for damages, and got a verdict for £200. It is needless to say that this adventure has been duly exaggerated, and even recently engravings have been published, showing Jamrach struggling with a tiger sufficiently large to have disposed of him at a meal.

In addition to wild animals, Mr Jamrach had collected a most valuable museum of Oriental curios, which may probably be made better known by his sons and successors.

LONDON BIRDS AND GARDENS.