

REPORT

OF THE

C O U N C I L

OF THE

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OF LONDON,

READ AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

APRIL 29TH, 1869.



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1869.

and the large amount of accommodation thereby afforded, has, as the Council believe, been well and economically expended upon it.

ii. *New Water-tank.*

The large reservoir, situated near the Broad-walk in the south-eastern corner of the Gardens, has been in bad order for several years, and, in spite of a considerable expenditure upon it for repairs, was found to be constantly leaking. Not only was the Society's heavy bill for water thus increased, but the adjoining part of the Gardens was much injured by the wet. Under these circumstances the Council determined in 1867 to replace the reservoir by an iron tank, made after the plan now usually adopted at railway-stations. This was successfully accomplished in 1867 at a total cost of £469 13s. 3d., of which £36 13s. was paid during the year 1867, and the remainder (£433 0s. 3d.) constitutes one of the principal items of extraordinary expenditure of the year last past.

The new tank has been found to answer its purpose very well, and, being placed at a higher level, gives an increased water-pressure over the whole Gardens, so that it has been found practicable to introduce the mode of watering by hydrants and india-rubber hose, so well-known on the continent. At the same time a large spare plot of ground has been obtained (occupied by the former reservoir) which the Council think will be a good situation for a new Fish-house, so soon as the necessary funds can be spared for that purpose.

iii. *New Elephant-house.*

The larger Deer having been removed to their new quarters on the south Gardens, and the space occupied by the old Wapiti-house having been cleared, the Council commenced in the summer of last year the erection of a large new House for Elephants and Rhinoceroses upon the sitethus obtained, according to the arrangements announced in their last Report. The plans for the new building were drawn by Mr. Anthony Salvin, junior, the Society's Architect. Several well-known firms of Builders were invited to tender for its construction, and the lowest tender, sent in by Messrs. Gammon and Co., of York Road, Lambeth, was accepted. This amounted to £2596

for the centre and one wing of the building, and £1324 for the remaining wing, together to £3920. The contractors were bound by their contract to have had the first portion ready on the 1st of November last; and the Council were very anxious to have removed the African Elephants into the new building before Christmas, their present temporary situation in the Eland-house being very inconvenient and ill-adapted for these animals. In these hopes the Council regret to say they were disappointed, the contractors, owing, as they allege, to causes not under their control, having been unable to complete the first portion of the building at the time specified. But the remaining portion was commenced early in the year, and has been lately completed, so that the opening of the whole building will not be long delayed after the period originally determined upon.

The sum of £1570 12s. 9d., being the first portion of the expenditure of the new Elephant-house, was paid in 1868, and forms the third principal item of extraordinary expenditure for that year.

2. VISITORS.

The total number of visitors to the Gardens in the year 1868 was 573,186, being 16,972 more than in the year 1867. They are divisible as follows:—

	1867.	1868.	Comparison.	
Fellows and Friends	153,712	167,923	Incr. 14,211	
Paying {	On ordinary days at 1s. each	121,658	113,894	Decr. 7,764
	On Mondays and other days at 6d. each	238,934	247,514	Incr. 8,580
	Children under 12 years at 6d. each	31,355	30,746	Decr. 609
Charity Children and others [having free admission	10,555	13,109	Incr. 2,554	
	556,214	573,186	Incr. 16,972	

The following Table gives the number of visitors to the Society's Gardens in each year since they were first opened. It will be observed that there were a greater number of entrances in 1868 than in any of the preceding years, except the two Exhibition years 1851 and 1862.