



ANIMALS AND NUBIANS AT THE ALEXANDRA PALACE.

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The exhibition at the Alexandra Palace of a collection of wild and tamed animals from Nubia, with people of that country in attendance, has been much admired. It comprises five elephants, eight giraffes, three rhinoceri, twenty-one dromedaries, eight buffaloes, and a number of ostriches and Abyssinian hunting-dogs. The animals are all in fine condition, and do not appear to have suffered from their journey to England. The elephants are youngsters of twelve or thirteen months old, and are playful, inquisitive little creatures; the giraffes and rhinoceri are also of tender age. The camels are mostly full-grown animals, of various species. The Nubian attendants are fourteen in number, drawn from five or six different tribes, inhabiting the great Nubian desert. They are tall, slim, active men, with dark skins, splendid white teeth, and fantastically arranged hair; and, robed in their loose cotton dresses, they present a decidedly picturesque appearance. All but one are in religion Mohammedans, the exception being a heathen negro of the Baza tribe. The others are of the tribes Beni-Amir, Hadendoa, Halenga, Djaalein, Hamrau, and Takrouni. The negro of the Baza tribe is scarcely admitted to any sort of fellowship with the rest, but is treated by them as a pariah. He is a freed slave, aged twenty-one, that being about the average age of the entire party, the eldest of whom, by at least five years, is thirty-two, and the youngest fifteen. They are under the leadership of a Maltese, Vincenzo Callija, long resident in Upper Egypt. The introduction of these men and their various captives of the chase into civilised Europe is due to the enterprise of Mr. Carl Hagenbeck, of Hamburg. Having long been in the habit of sending periodically to Nubia for his elephants, giraffes, ostriches, dromedaries, and other zoological pets, he conceived the notion of fetching thence a few specimens of the humanity employed by his agents in the collection of game. The animals may be classed under two heads—those trained in servitude, and those which, being either untamable or of no use when tamed, are valued simply as rarities for exhibition. Such are the rhinoceroses or rhinoceri, the buffaloes, the zebras, the giraffes, the

ostriches, and the hippopotamus. Several elephants are among the "utility" members of the band; one little fellow is exceedingly clever at all kinds of tricks, which have been taught him in a wonderfully short time. There are twenty-four dromedaries, all highly trained, and many of the black species, almost new to Europe. One of the ordinary light-coloured kind is only six weeks old, having been born on the voyage from Egypt. Goats and Abyssinian hunting-dogs make up the catalogue of the camp. Tents of matting, decorated with leopard skins, trophies of savage arms, and skulls of large beasts killed in the chase, are pitched by the Nubians, as in their native wilds, and every day, weather permitting, they go through their representation of desert life, saddling their dromedaries, racing them, and moving in slow, long procession, with the huge waterskins, and other baggage on the backs of the patient beasts. But the most curious picture is afforded when the animals lie down to rest in a circle, and the drivers are busied in the preparations for repose or refreshment, incidental to a halt of the caravan.

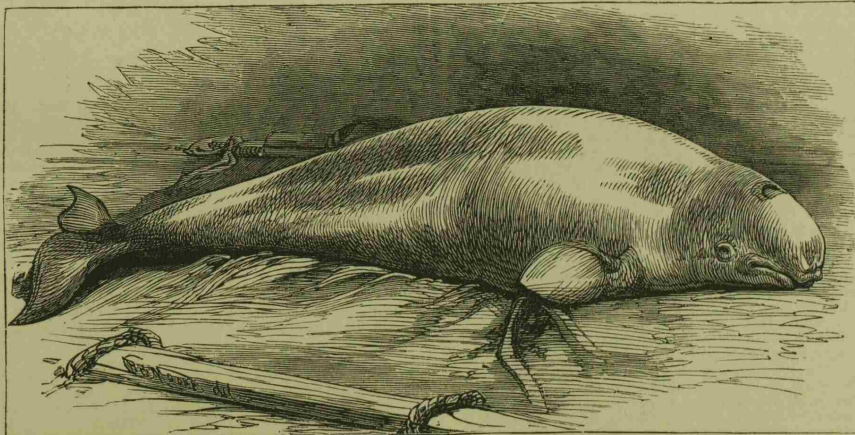
THE ROYAL AQUARIUM WHALE.

The whale from Labrador, which arrived at the Royal Westminster Aquarium on Wednesday week, expired on Saturday morning shortly before four o'clock. While on its way from Southampton to London, Mr. John T. Carrington, naturalist,

and curator to the Royal Aquarium Society, noticed that it had a severe cold and that mucus was issuing from the blow-hole. On arrival at the Royal Aquarium, the whale was put into the tank which had been specially constructed; but the symptoms gradually increased. On Friday week Mr. Carrington remained with the whale until midnight; it was then breathing very heavily, often coming to the top and blowing several times before diving. About one o'clock on Saturday morning it became very uneasy, and its uneasiness developed into a state of delirium; going about the tank a great deal and swimming very rapidly, its head came into contact with the end of the tank, but without doing itself much damage. Having somewhat recovered, it again swam several times round the tank, again came into collision with the end of the tank, turned over, and died. The body was removed to a table and exhibited to the public on Saturday, and in the evening a plaster cast was made. On Sunday morning Professor Flower, F.R.H., Hunterian Conservator to the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, Dr. Garrod, Prosector of the Zoological Society, Mr. H. Lee, F.L.S., naturalist, Mr. T. Bond, Westminster Hospital, Mr. H. Pollack, F.Z.S., Mr. Tegetmeier, and Mr. J. T. Carrington attended at the Aquarium; and a post-mortem examination was held. The stomach was found well filled with food and all the parts were healthy, except the lungs, which were in a high state of congestion. It was considered by the professional gentlemen

that this congestion had been going on probably eight or nine days, proving that the cold had been caught during the voyage. This is the more probable, seeing that the creature was exposed on deck, where it was soured with sea water at intervals of not more than five minutes; and in the intervals very rapid evaporation occurred from the skin of the animal, which would produce intense cold. The whale was a female, and had attained about two thirds of the full size of its species, being 9 ft. 6 in. in length. All the internal organs have been presented to the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons; they will make very interesting preparations.

The whale was valued at about £1000, and was insured only up to the time of delivery at the Aquarium. A contract has already been signed between Mr. Wybrow Robertson and Mr. Farini, under which Mr. Zack



THE DEAD WHALE AT THE ROYAL AQUARIUM.