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contributes

## Report from Whipsnade



B.O.A.C. Photo

"Mohini" taking sweets from Head Keeper Wilson on her arrival at London Airport.



Thomson's Gazelles and the fawn born at Whipsnade. Photo: Fox Photos Ltd

THERE HAS been a record number of arrivals and births in the last few months, of which the most interesting is undoubtedly "Mohini" the three-year-old female Indian Rhinoceros destined to be the wife of "Mohan." A delightful creature, she is already very tame and approximately half the size of the male. "Mohan" is very interested in his future wife. This subject is dealt with more fully in a special article elsewhere in this issue.

A pair of Ostriches, received in exchange

from Hamburg Zoo, at present to be seen in the Zebra yard, will soon join the Zebras in Spicer's Field. A pair of Red River Hogs transferred from Regent's Park have their home on the Downs in the old Wart Hog enclosure.

The new Panda enclosure, adjoining Gibbon Island now houses a trio of Lesser Pandas. These make a very pleasing exhibit as they peer down from the branches of their home in an oak tree. The large collection of ducks, pelicans,

etc., on the new Spicer's Pond has now been increased by the addition of a pair of Spot-billed Pelicans from Ceylon and sixteen Chilian Flamingoes, the Flamingoes being received from Holland in exchange for eight Wallabies. The Chilian Flamingo is somewhat smaller than the Greater Flamingo, and is easily distinguishable by the red "knees" and feet, giving the appearance of sealing-wax stuck on at the "knees." Two Secretary Birds received from John Seago make a pleasing addition

The Whipsnade Ostriches recently received from Hamburg Zoo taking cabbage leaves from Overlook Bates's hand. Photo: Home Counties Newspaper Ltd



to our collection of the larger birds.

Breeding results, with few exceptions, have been particularly good. They include a Northern Waterbuck bred for the first time at Whipsnade, three Thomson's Gazelle and one Grant's Gazelle faun. The herd of North American Bison has improved out of all recognition in the last two or three years and five strong calves have been born, the sire being the bull obtained from the Canadian Department of Mines several years ago. Two East African Eland calves have been born and are doing well, but unfortunately both are males. A Burchell's Zebra filly foal makes a pretty picture in Spicer's with its characteristic shadow stripes. The only Wapiti Deer born is, again, a male. Fallow Deer, Red Deer and Formosan Sika have all produced six or more fauns, and these herds are now as large or larger than the respective paddocks can maintain. One Bactrian Camel female born brings our herd up to eleven. Camels only breed every other season and most of our females produced calves last year.

More than twenty Peafowl have been hatched in the park, and up to date ten Red-breasted Geese and two Kenya Crested Guinea-fowl.