

in with those on exhibit, no attempt has been made to train them.

Cheetah may be trained to at least sufficiently to consider its capacity as a hunting India those used for the for the most part be from Africa. Princes of and Europe have used As the cubs are not have developed hunting first taught by their adult Cheetahs are trained for the hunt.

Procedure is for the be carried on a cart to although elephant and transportation are also picture the Cheetah pre- cerie one, for the cat only on collar and also hooded until the When the destination and the prey is in Blackbuck Antelope, the black hood is the Cheetah's head. The

cat is released from its leash. As it has probably not been fed for many hours in preparation for the hunt, it is more than ready for the kill. After first cautiously getting as near as possible to the antelope without being seen, the cat suddenly becomes a yellow streak of lightning. When the Cheetah has killed the prey, the attendants, who have been following on horseback, run up to the antelope, slit its throat, and give the cat its reward—a ladle of blood.

How lucky our zoo Cheetahs are! Their job is a far easier one, for all that is required of them is to appear handsome and contented, parade back and forth to show off their sleek, spotted forms and tear-streaked faces, and be on general exhibit duty—for which they are fed generous rations of meat—a soft and unhurried life. Seventy miles per hour? Their racing days are over, but they can rest on the laurels of their species, and certainly they remain champions in the exhibit field.

#### AN PIGMIES

## Marmoset Tom Thumbs

fall into rather a rut: comes to describing any member of a group, only fall back on the "pig." Well, here's one it won't work at all. Marmoset would scarcely be a respectable quarter-pint, a half.

of all New World primates Marmoset weighs half ounces when and its body measures six inches in length. The species are considerably larger than the average singer.

dozen of these infinitesimal brown monkeys arrived at the zoo early in April. They were flown from Peru via

is native to the headwaters of the Amazon. It is relatively rare in zoos, and has been in the San Diego collection before. A pair from Ecuador on the 1938 collection was exhibited for several years during which time they were born on three different occasions. Although other primates usually bear only one multiple birth, this

the rule in marmosets—either twins or triplets. The gestation period for the Pigmy, according to our records, ran 140 days.

The new Pigmy Marmosets are currently housed in heated quarters in the zoo hospital. There they will remain until an exhibit cage can be renovated to suit their particular needs.

## Bred White and Blue

An Arctic Fox by any other name is still an Arctic Fox—and that includes the famous Blue Fox of the fur trade. The White and the Blue are merely color phases of the same species. In summer, the two phases are similar—both being slate colored; but in winter, one phase assumes a suit of immaculate white while the other retains its bluish coat for the entire year.

Currently, both phases may be compared in G Canyon, where they are exhibited side by side. Late spring is hardly the best time for comparison since the new Blues, recently obtained from the Calgary Zoo, offer little contrast to their "white" brethren next door. But come next winter, the difference will be marked.

## RHINO ROCK-HOUND

## Stones For Sally

Wanted: information regarding the necessary prerequisites for membership in the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society. We assume, of course, that said organization is concerned with encouraging enthusiastic youngsters. Our own interest in the matter is hardly an objective one; as fond foster-parents on a mass scale, we have just such an enthusiastic youngster of our own. Granted, she may be just a bit large by ordinary comparisons, but we hasten to assure you rock hounds, bona fide, officially acknowledged and with portfolio, that our little girl's amateur interest in rocks is commensurate with her dimensions—and she weighs just under a ton. We feel that she would be a decided asset to any mineralogical society. Perhaps we are afflicted with an overdose of parental prejudice, but the evidence is certainly in Sally's favor.

The top of the wall that surrounds the African Black Rhino enclosure is about waist-high by human standards and about chin-high by rhino standards. Atop the wall are vertically set two-inch pipes which rise another three feet or so and are spaced about a foot apart. The upper ends of the vertical pipes are connected by a heavy bar of concrete. So much for the construction crew's contribution to the barrier that surrounds the rhino yard. The decoration was left entirely up to Sally, and she has done her best.

Any day in the week, you may visit Sally's cage to find that here and there, spaced in casual fashion



on top of the wall, are small reddish stones, perhaps half a dozen of them. There is generally only one stone for any one space between two pipes, and the interval between the selected spaces varies. However, the stones are lined up rather nicely, we think; each one has been pushed from the rear until it is roughly one inch from the front edge of the wall. And Sally does it all herself.

She picks up each stone from the floor of her cage with her prehensile lips. Lovingly she holds the stone about in her mouth, the while wandering aimlessly about her enclosure. She brings to mind a human moppet mouthful of jaw-breaker; the ecstatic expression is the same.

Sooner or later she spies a visitor she knows and, should be someone she admires, she seems to feel that a supreme sacrifice is in order. She presents him with her rock. Almost shyly, perhaps apologetically, she places it on the wall and pushes it towards him. She may not be much as stones go, but seems to realize; but after all, she is only an amateur collector.

## Non-Local Color

The avian spectrum department made great strides last month, thanks to four species of birds entirely new to the exhibit. Each hails from a distant clime, one being native to the Himalayas while the others inhabit East Africa.

The Asiatic bird is a Giant Barbet, donated by aviculturist Ray Thomas, who manages to come up with choice contributions at regular intervals. His newest is a toucanet-sized bird with green body, dark blue head, yellowish breast, and vermilion under-tail area. Its heavy

beak is yellowish with a black tip. The species occurs from Kasai to China and feeds on fruits and insects.

The African contingent consists of a Superb Starling, iridescent greenish-black with a chestnut white breast, two Purple-headed Starlings, black with purple heads, and four Jackson's Whydahs, large finches which, during the breeding season, are black with long tail-plumes. In non-breeding plumage they are brown and streaked and lack the train.